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LIVERPOOL FC



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OFFICIAL LIVERPOOL FC MONTHLY MAGAZINE

TEAM RAHEEM

THE WORDS THAT INSPIRE STERLING AND HOW BRENDAN RODGERS GAVE THE AWESOME FOURSOME THEIR MOJO



Know your Reds? Ultimate season quiz inside

The new 14/15 kit unveiled

12th man picture gallery

+

STEVE HEIGHWAY THE STORY BEHIND THE SONG

ISSUE 022 £3.95







Contents

Issue 22 June 2014







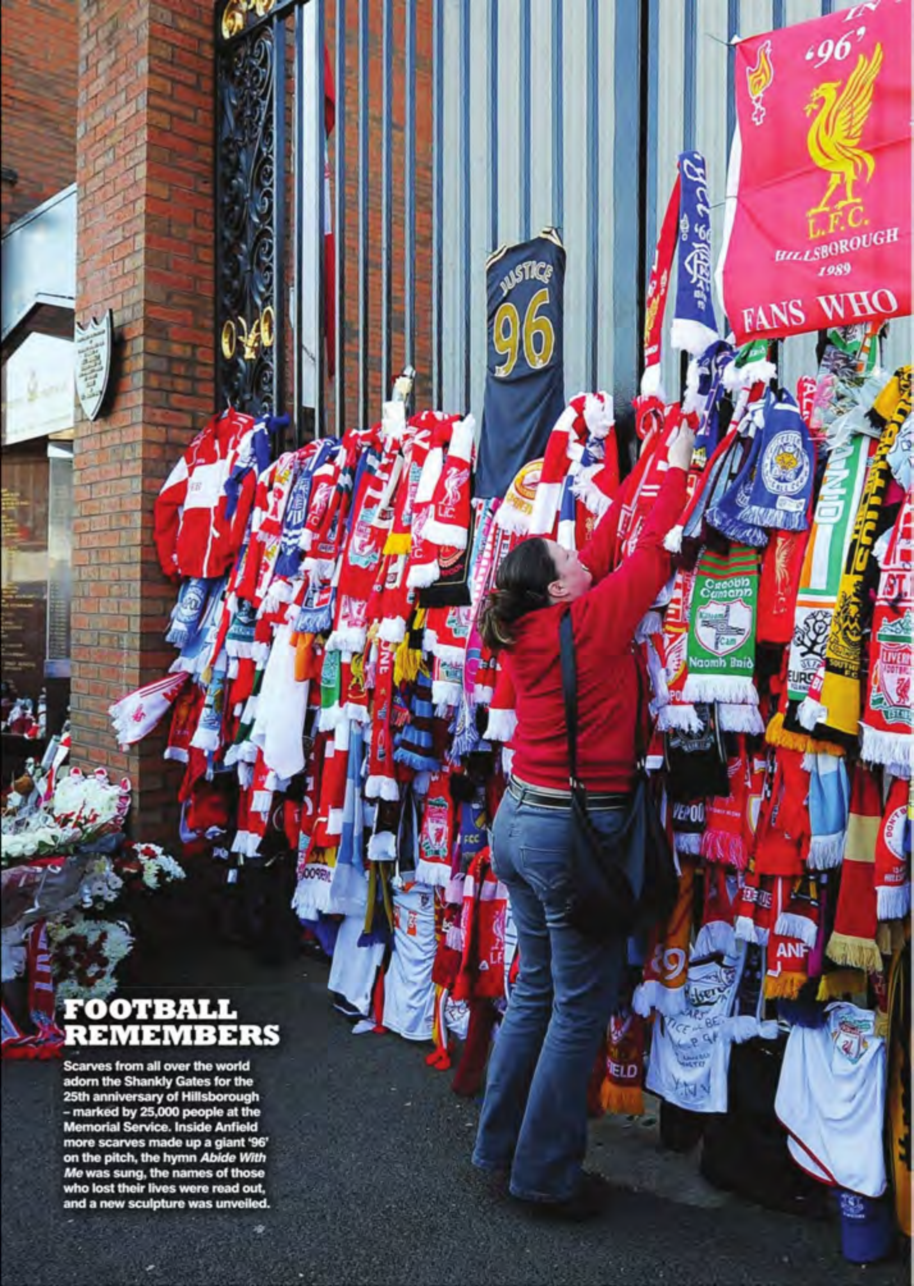






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FOOTBALL REMEMBERS

Scarves from all over the world adorn the Shankly Gates for the 25th anniversary of Hillsborough – marked by 25,000 people at the Memorial Service. Inside Anfield more scarves made up a giant '96' on the pitch, the hymn *Abide With Me* was sung, the names of those who lost their lives were read out, and a new sculpture was unveiled.


LEST WE FORGET
IBROX
1971
NEVER
LIVERPOOL
2007
LIVERPOOL
LEEDS
Carlsberg

ANFIELD CELEBRATES

A capacity crowd witnessed a 2-2 draw between teams comprised of Local and International LFC Legends in Easter Monday's Celebration of the 96 event at Anfield. The match was the centrepiece of a full day of events organised by the Hillsborough Family Support Group to not only raise funds but also commemorate the lives of the 96 people who died on 15 April 1989.




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96

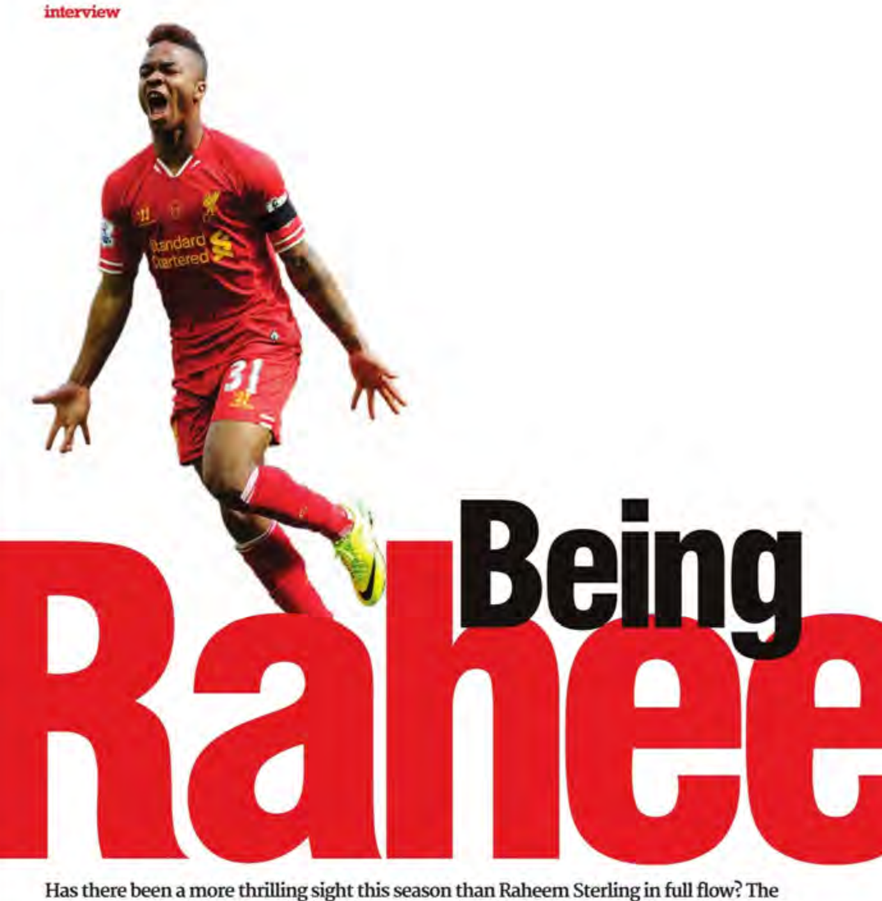


TOP OF THE KIT PARADE

Four Reds stars revealed the home strip for 2014/15 in front of thousands of fans at the Liverpool One shopping complex in the heart of the city. Jordan Henderson, Simon Mignolet, Philippe Coutinho and Kolo Toure stepped out of a Warrior-branded shipping container to the delight of supporters, some of whom had been waiting for up to six hours to be the first to see the new kit – and Jordan couldn't resist the temptation to take a group selfie just before the doors opened.

The new strip takes inspiration from the Roger Hunt era of the 1960s when Bill Shankly's Mighty Reds won promotion to the top flight and went on to win the League, FA Cup (for the first time) and League again. "It's great to see that 50 years on Liverpool are still looking like giants in their all red strip" said 'Sir' Roger.

Fans can order the new LFC home kit from either the Official Liverpool FC Online Store or in any Official Liverpool FC Club Store.



Being Raheem

Has there been a more thrilling sight this season than Raheem Sterling in full flow? The young man with not just the ball but the world at his feet, talks candidly to Simon Hughes

Raheem Sterling's eyes widen. He does not look at his hands but uses them to illustrate a moment he insists is the greatest in his career so far. The left on the table is Joe Hart. The right is Sterling, running, stopping – turning one way and the other. Then he flicks his finger like that of an aspiring Subbuteo player towards the imaginary goal which stands somewhere in my direction.

"I saw Luis [Suarez] make the pass," he recalls. "I was going as fast as I could. I saw Dan [Sturridge]. I knew I had to be selfish. Then I just thought that I had to use Dan as a dummy."

Fortunately it worked. "Otherwise Dan would probably have ripped my head off! It was more of an instinct thing. I just thought I'd best try it because the keeper and the defender would probably dive and try to save the ball if I passed sideways. So I went with the shimmy. It opened up."

Real excitement is audible in Sterling's voice when he describes the split-second after the ball has crossed the line. "I can't remember hearing any noise [in the build-up]. Everything is blanked. You see faces: your team-mates, the opposition, the thousands of people in the stadium. But you hear nothing. Then the ball hits the back of the net and everything changes.

"I'd imagine it's like watching a game on TV without volume then reaching for the remote when your team scores and hearing the roar. That's how it feels to me. That day it was unreal. Just talking about it gives me a shiver.

"It is a crazy feeling. I look back at it and smile but only because we



"Just talking about my goal against Manchester City gives me a shiver"

ended up winning. If we'd drawn or lost, it wouldn't have mattered."

Two hours earlier, Liverpool had arrived at Anfield to be greeted by thousands of supporters outside the stadium. "I don't think you'll see that anywhere else. I couldn't tell you how many people were there because there were people as far as I could see. The road was blocked, singing and chanting. It was the best thing I've seen outside of a football ground. To know those people were our fans, it gave me a really good feeling. I wouldn't have


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"I feel like I'm growing up quickly and you have to look towards the boss for that"

wanted to be on the visiting team's bus that morning."

It takes something to be able to reflect and interpret when a person is still a teenager, still only 19 years old. Yet we expect Sterling to have all the answers, whether that is on the pitch or in an interview room. He has experienced life. Moving from Jamaica with his mother Nadine as a five-year-old to a foreign country and a very different community could not have been easy. Then there is the expectation, ever since he trained with Queens Park Rangers' first team as a 14-year-old and displayed such tenacity and skill that he was able to dispossess Shaun Derry before nutmegging the club captain and scoring a goal in his debut session. Observers were open-mouthed.

From London, he moved to Liverpool, another very different city indeed. He is now a father to Melody Rose. He is an England international footballer, likely to be selected for a World Cup squad in Brazil.

"I feel like I'm growing up quickly. I've had to, to make sure I'm in the [Liverpool] team. Maybe on the outside people had the impression I've always been really confident. But after a good start [to last season] I started looking for easy options rather than taking a chance myself, beating a man, taking a shot on myself.

"You could look at the City goal as an example. I'm not trying to sound cheeky or over confident. Three or four months ago, I would have squared rather than take the responsibility all for myself. It is difficult getting that balance between being confident and over-confident over just going for the easy option all the time. I'm learning that there are no easy options. Just right options and wrong options."

Sterling started this season as a left winger. "I only thought I could play left wing," he says. Since, he has played right-back, right wing-back and as a no10. "I probably didn't think I was capable of doing all that." Sterling's reputation was so great that most people believed they had him figured out. In 10 short months, I suggest to him that a previously undiscovered potential has been unlocked.

"I think you have to look towards the manager for that," he says, crediting Brendan Rodgers. "Since coming here at 15, I was on the left. I thought I knew that role well. But in the first team, my best performances have probably been on the right or behind the strikers. I feel like I'm a different player now, with more to offer."

Raheem says Rodgers has a "special" ability to man-manage players. He tells a story about a team-mate who received a half-time telling-off. Within minutes of the break, the team-mate had scored a goal. In his technical area Sterling could see Rodgers laughing. "It was deliberate," Sterling says, with a light smile.



Brendan Rodgers has been crucial



"He just does it to get a reaction. He knows how to push the right buttons, how to wind people up to get the best out of them; how to bring people down a peg or two, dangling the carrot. I know because I've been there too a couple of times."

Rodgers too has the ability to take "all the fear away" both individually and collectively. There was a time at Liverpool when the fear of losing overcame the courage to go and win. Sterling says that like the team, he is "learning" to trust himself.

"I'm living purely for football. Thinking purely football. Playing one game then thinking only about the next game, how I can help the team – purely to see how I can challenge myself. My goal was always to play for Liverpool when I first came here and maybe for a time I thought that goal was achieved because I was one of the lucky ones to do it. But you realise that is not enough. There always has to be the next challenge, to achieve things and win things – making your mark.

"From December time I realised I had to start stamping my personality, running with the ball, running into the box, making goals, scoring goals; not playing with that barrier and create as much as I can – not to be worried about making mistakes. I'd look for the easy pass and give it to a team-mate when I was in the better position – not just for myself but for the team. I'd stopped being natural, all the things I'd done which got me into the first team in the first place. You have to do what you think is right, not what you expect other people might think is right."

"Being a no10 is something I'd like to do more – getting on the ball and running"

Sometimes in football, there can be too much information. Sterling believes the key to Liverpool's emergence from Champions League hopefuls at best to title contenders this season is simplicity, just as it was long before.

"The way the manager is running the club is the right way. It's not just on the football side. There's always someone there for what you need. Nutrition, the mental side or technical analysis, we don't have to ask. When you couple that with the standard of the players here, you realise it was only going to be a certain amount of time before we started winning a lot of matches."

Rather than being instructed, Sterling says he is "guided" by Rodgers and his staff. Before the victory over City, the message was clear: "to create space in behind, to keep the defensive midfielder looking backwards rather than forwards, to get wide – make runs – and come back central when the other team has the ball. Then most importantly, keep the ball, play it simple."

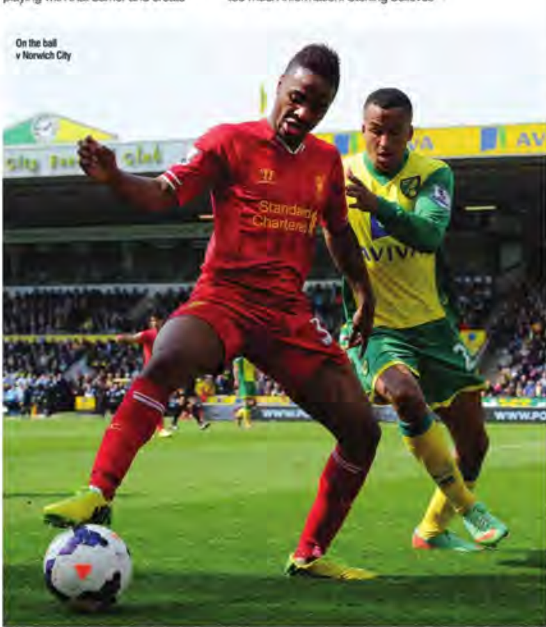
He continues: "The last thing you want is not to be in the right position and the other team score a goal. Otherwise we'll all be in the meeting room and your role in it all will be highlighted. It's not a nice feeling when you're in that position, but of course it needs to happen."

Sterling speaks too about Steve Peters – Liverpool's club psychiatrist, a person who is able to reinforce the manager's ideas through simple messages. "We use a motto: 'focus on the ball, focus on the team'. I had a meeting with him [Peters] before the City game. I thought it was going to last 20-25 minutes. So I walked in, sat down and he just said 'Focus on the ball, focus on the team'. 'Is that it?' I asked him. But it was really important.

"The way he works is brilliant. At first I thought it wasn't for me. On the outside you might think it's complicated. But all the messages are very straightforward. He understands the players and the emotional side of the game. What he says really helps you."

Sterling is quick to praise the role of other players who "make it a lot easier" when he is selected centrally at the top of a midfield diamond. "The midfield that we've got, the way they pass the ball, I think it helps me a lot. The way they keep possession and the tempo means I've just got to get in good positions to get in behind the defence or the defensive midfielder. To play with players like that when they find me regularly, I'm very fortunate."

He believes his positional sense needs improving particularly. But he adds that no footballer can ever be content, using the example of his captain Steven Gerrard as a reference. "Being a no10 is something I'd like to do more of in the future, really. It suits me when I try to get on the ball and get running – even without it as I did for



On the ball v Norwich City



At the Melwood races with Martin Skrtel

the goal against City. I realise too that playing in all positions have helped me this season, my overall understanding. You always think you know but until you get out there and play, it is different. No footballer can stop and think there's nothing to improve on.

"You see players like Stevie in training every day trying so, so hard to get better. He's an amazing player but he still tries – because that's what has gotten him to where he is. You're always thinking that he's been there and done that, doing what everyone wants to do. When Stevie was younger he moved about the pitch too. You can learn from every experience."

There is an impression that Sterling is not burdened by the failures of past teams, when Liverpool fell short. "The challenge of winning the league is something you've got to relish," he says. "You realise the fans must be frustrated because it has been so long but they are very understanding and realistic. We're all in this together. We're focusing just on what is happening right now and seeing where that takes us.

"Because we've got a good chance."

YOUNGEST POST-WAR ENGLAND DEBUTS

Theo Walcott 17 years 74 days 2006 v Hungary
Wayne Rooney 17 years 110 days 2003 v Australia
Raheem Sterling 17 years 342 days 2012 v Sweden
Michael Owen 18 years 59 days 1998 v Chile
Micah Richards 18 years 143 days 2006 v Holland

• **Harry Wilson** is Liverpool's youngest international, making his debut for Wales v Belgium in Oct 2013 aged 16 years and 207 days – beating the record set by Raheem. He also beat the Welsh record set by Gareth Bale.



BIG 13/14

1 Which club did young Reds winger Jordan Ibe join in February?

2 In which iconic Australian sporting stadium did Liverpool play as part of their pre-season tour?

3 Put names to these LFC backroom staff interviewed by the magazine in August: **(i)** head of opposition analysis; **(ii)** sport psychiatrist; **(iii)** head of performance…

4 What was the game in which Steven Gerrard open his 2013/14 league scoring account?

5 When the magazine asked Mamadou Sakho what it would be like to face Suarez and Sturridge, to which fierce animal did he liken himself?

6 Who fouled Joe Allen to give away Liverpool's second penalty in the 3-0 win at Old Trafford?

7 In which year was the original 7in single *We Are Liverpool* released?

8 After which fixture was young defender Jon Flanagan given a round of applause by his team-mates?

9 In which number in line did Martin Skrtel tell the magazine he likes to emerge from the players' tunnel?

10 Against which side did Raheem Sterling chalk up his 50th Premier League appearance for the Reds?

FAT QUIZ

11 When Luis Suarez scored from a free-kick against Hull City on New Year's Day, in how many consecutive Anfield fixtures had he found the net?

12 From whom did Liverpool Ladies sign winger Gemma Davison?

13 In the opening Premier League game against Stoke City at Anfield whose follow-up shot was blocked by Simon Mignolet after he'd saved the Jonathan Walters penalty?

14 A new headstone for which famous figure from Liverpool FC's distant past was placed in Anfield Cemetery in December?

15 Who came on as a substitute for Oldham Athletic on the 83rd minute in the FA Cup third-round tie against Liverpool?

16 And altogether how many goals did Liverpool score in the FA Cup and Capital One Cup combined?

17 What shirt number was young playmaker Joao Carlos Teixeira handed this season?

18 Which striker, who'd made three appearances for the first team, moved to Yeovil in January?

19 Anfield played host to a reunion of the 1963/64 title winners in late November – what special trophy also made an appearance?



BIG FAT 13/14 QUIZ

20 In which Premier League fixture did Liverpool's players wear the commemorative Patch for the 96 on their shirts for the first time?

21 On 5 March 2014 against which country did Jordan Henderson win his eighth and most recent cap for England?

22 And which Liverpool player scored the winner in that same international friendly?

23 Who was commemorated with a special minute's applause before Liverpool's Premier League home game against West Ham United on 7 December?

24 "One day I'd like to bump into him, have a chat about it and see what he really thinks. I'd ask him if he 's changed his mind about me as a player…" To whom was skipper Steven Gerrard referring in our Christmas issue interview?

25 How many consecutive games had the Reds lost at White Hart Lane before they beat Tottenham there in December?

26 Which two retired Reds came off the bench for Steven's testimonial against Olympiacos?

27 "He did have an aura. He wasn't the biggest of men but was always beautifully dressed and his shoes were so polished you could see your face in them." About whom was veteran Liverpool journalist John Keith talking in Issue 12 of the magazine?

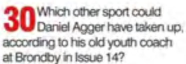
28 To the nearest 100,000 how many followers did the official @LFC Twitter account have at the start of April 2014?

29 Can you name the two German players from the victorious Liverpool Ladies team interviewed by the magazine back in October? They're pictured together on this page…





PRINCE OF DENMARK



30 Which other sport could Daniel Agger have taken up, according to his old youth coach at Brondby in Issue 14?

31 Issue 14 also explored LFC's roots through newspaper cuttings from 1892 – can you identify the famous figure in the cartoon just below?

32 Striker Daniel Sturridge came off the bench to equalise at Everton in November – against which country had he played for England the previous Tuesday?

33 Name the star from *The Office* whom we interviewed in Issue 15 about his passion for the Reds…

34 What was the motto of the Liverpool Ladies team during their FA WSL title triumph?

35 Which famous fan paid a visit to Anfield for the 4-0 win over Fulham in November?

36 "I look at him and see someone who hasn't proved me wrong – he's proved me right. He's composed, he looks bigger on the pitch and he's been brilliant…" About whom was Brendan Rodgers talking in his interview with the magazine in December?

37 Young Portuguese defender Tiago Ilori revealed there were two centre-backs whom he most admired. One was from the past – Franz Beckenbauer. Who was the modern-day player?

38 Along with Tiago which other defender officially joined the club on 2 September 2013?

39 Before the Premier League fixture against which side was there a Spion Kop mosaic celebrating Bill Shankly's 100th birthday?

40 Against which team did Steven Gerrard captain the team for the 400th time? Little clue: they like a lot of possession…

41 Steven earned his 109th international cap in March – who are the only two players in history to have made more appearances for England?

42 Who came on as a substitute at Chelsea on 29 December to make his first-team debut for LFC?

43 Luis Suarez scored four against Norwich in December at Anfield, but which of those goals was his landmark 50th in the Premier League?

44 With his second spot-kick at West Ham last month, Steven Gerrard overtook Kenny Dalglish in the LFC all-time goalscorers – but what position did he jump up to?

45 Liverpool's 4-0 win over Everton at Anfield in January was LFC's biggest victory over the Blues since which year?

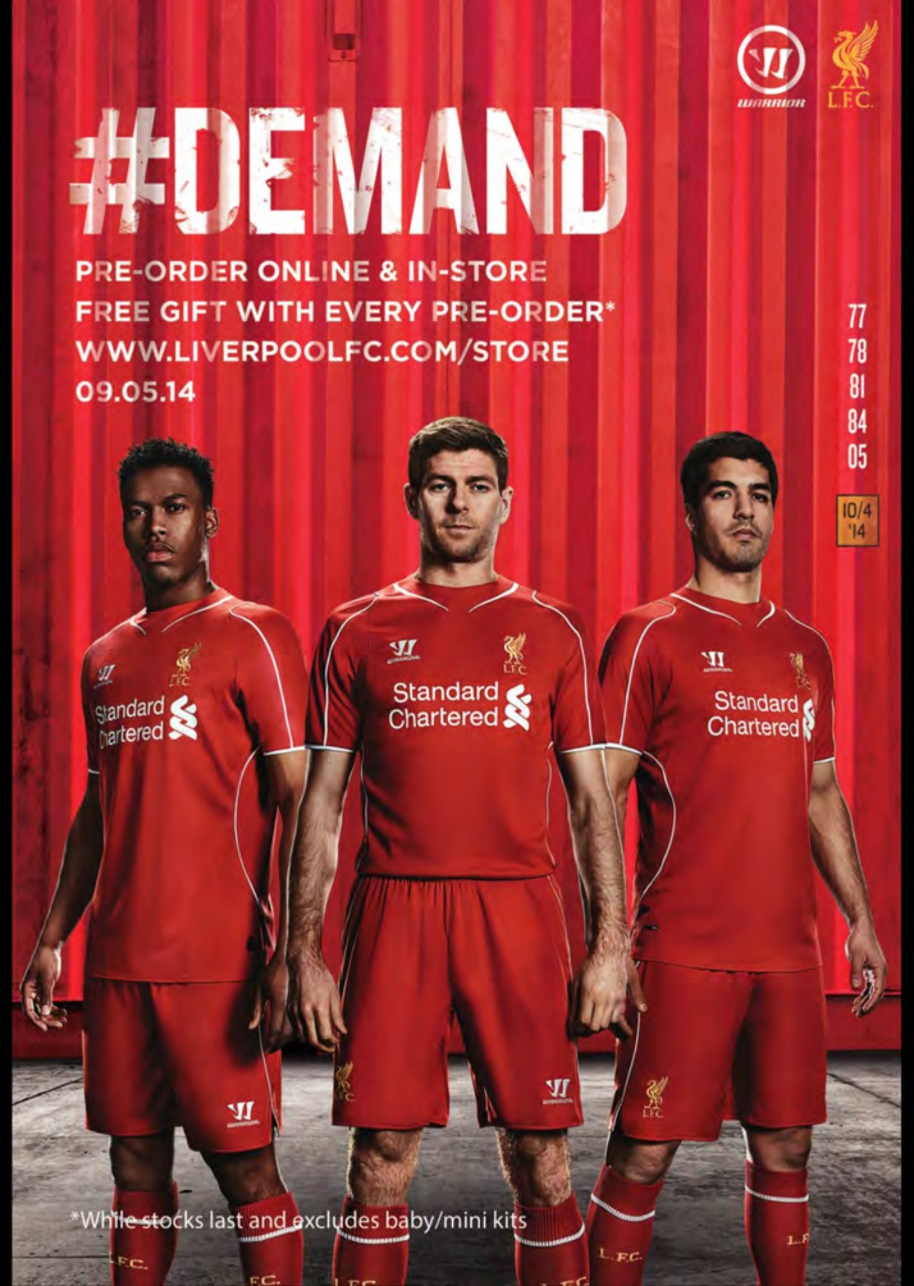
46 Against which team did Luis Suarez score his first hat-trick of the season?

47 And in which game did Luis first do his 'Hulk' celebration?

48 Who came on as a late substitute for goalscorer Philippe Coutinho in the sensational 3-2 home win over Manchester City?

49 Name the title and the author of the novel about Bill Shankly published in August 2013?

50 How many ex-Reds, who had previously appeared for LFC in the Premier League, played against Liverpool in 2013/14?



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With a shrewd boss and tactically savvy players anything is possible

Didi HAMANN



Luis Garcia is fondly remembered for his brilliant goals. What people forget is the number of occasions he would give the ball away. Sometimes he'd concede possession the first 10 times he got the ball, and quite often he wasn't even trying to make difficult passes. More than once I had to stop Carra giving him a rollicking.

Despite the frustration that he caused, Luis was well worth his place in the side because he was capable of producing a brilliant winner, such as his FA Cup semi-final strike against Chelsea.

The reason I'm talking about him is to demonstrate that, although tactics and formations are important in football, they can't be too rigid. Some players, such as Luis, are free spirits. They play on instinct. You try to make the system work around them, rather than forcing them to change their natural game to fit the system.

That's what Brendan Rodgers has done this season. He's altered the formation on a number of occasions to get the best out of the players at his disposal and those tactics have worked superbly.

During the 3-2 win over Manchester City the use of a midfield diamond allowed Jordan Henderson and Raheem Sterling to roam. City had no answer for it and the space their movement created gave us the platform to go two goals ahead.



"Brendan has altered the formation to get the best out of the players at his disposal"

Formations can be talked about too much. It's too simplistic to say a team won because they played 4-4-2 or 4-3-3. That's only a small part of the reason. It's the work that goes into preparing for the game and then having the players implement the plan that ensures the result, it's not just how the team lines up for kick-off.

Brendan is someone who spends plenty of time working on his tactical approach and honing it for each game. Rafa Benitez was similar. He really emphasised what he wanted the team and each player to do. Tactically I know I learned plenty from him and I'd say every player who worked with him would agree. Gerard Houllier wasn't quite as focused on that side of football, although we did spend some time working on team shape or Phil Thompson would coach the back-four.

No matter what tactics you employ, they won't work unless the players you have at your disposal are intelligent enough. Some find it easy to do what the manager requires, others struggle. The more players you have who are tactically aware the better your team will be. But even then you'll have matches where all tactics seem to just go out of the window. I experienced plenty of those in my time at Liverpool, such as the 2001 UEFA Cup final, Istanbul and the FA Cup final against West Ham United.

In the first and last of those games neither team was able to exert control for too long. There were goals flying in at each end. While in 2005 AC Milan obviously dominated the first half. Going back out for the second 45 minutes our only tactic was simple – not to let them score the next goal.

Thankfully it worked and we all know what happened after that.

Follow Didi on Twitter @dietmarhamann

"THIS IS A GOOD PLACE TO BE"

You can't help but like Kolo Toure – his enthusiasm, cheerfulness and professionalism are infectious, as Glenn Price discovers at Melwood

Kolo Toure has brought to Liverpool FC a wealth of experience, knowledge and more than 300 Premier League appearances, along with winner's medals with two different clubs.

Along with that is his likeable character and friendly approach to everyone at the club – Kolo very much lives up to his bubbly persona on and off the pitch. Even when Iago Aspas interrupts this interview halfway through, he laughs with the striker, sarcastically thanking him and jokingly excusing him as a "young player" who knows no better.

"The atmosphere of a club needs to be very good," says the 33-year-old Ivorian. "When you go to work, you need to be happy to go to work. You don't want to come somewhere that you feel: aah, I have to wake up and go to this place and it's going to be bad. That's why it's very important that the atmosphere around the training ground has to be great.

"This is a good place to be, not just a place where we want to go, do the job then go back home. Sometimes for me, after we've finished training, I stay here because I want to go in the bath or jacuzzi and talk to friends. I want to spend my time here because the people are nice and kind. You see here that there is respect. There are rules and everybody respects the rules.

"The manager, captain and even people who work at Melwood – like those that work upstairs, the ladies who serve us and the chef – you can see that people really enjoy to be here. This (environment) has come from the manager and club, definitely. The manager is very clever. He knows when to talk, when to joke and when to be hard and tell you what you need to do. Stevie is the same.

"Both of them see the club in the same way. They work very well together. Their relationship is amazing. If somebody does something wrong, they will tell you. But also when you do something right they will tell you. It's not only here [Melwood] – they sometimes text you. I've had my hard times and during those times I received a text from the captain and the manager. That's very important – it gives you the belief that it doesn't

"The manager, the captain, the people who work at Melwood, they all enjoy it"



Kolo with team-mates at the recent kit launch

matter what happens, people will always be behind you, and that shows the spirit of this club. They do things like that to give you the power to carry on. When the manager calls you into his office, if there's something he or yourself want to talk about, he's very honest as well. He will tell you what he thinks and that's very important."

Upon Toure joining the club, Brendan Rodgers spoke of the centre-half's winning mentality. Appearing as a vital member around successful squads all throughout his career, Kolo highlights the fundamentals of winners.

"Respect, hard work and dedication. The basics to be a winner are here. You can see the captain represents that. Stevie is the first at the training ground and he's the first to be there in anything we do. He's an example of leadership.

"What I've seen in other clubs, like Arsenal and Manchester City when they have won, is what I can see here. It's very special here. It's a great club and has been for many years.

"It doesn't matter what has happened, if we lose a game you leave it behind you because you can't do anything about it. You have to focus on the next stage, the positives. Just forget about what happened and carry on living. Because if you put the work in, you're going to win."

It's easy to see the dedication and hard work that he talks about. It's reflected in the eyes of the younger players in the squad that have come on leaps and bounds this season. Toure insists that it works both ways – the youngster also set an example for him and others to follow. "When I first came I found some young players very concentrated and they were already top pros. If you see a young player working hard, what else can you tell them?

"If you lose, leave it behind and focus on the positives – put the work in and you'll win"

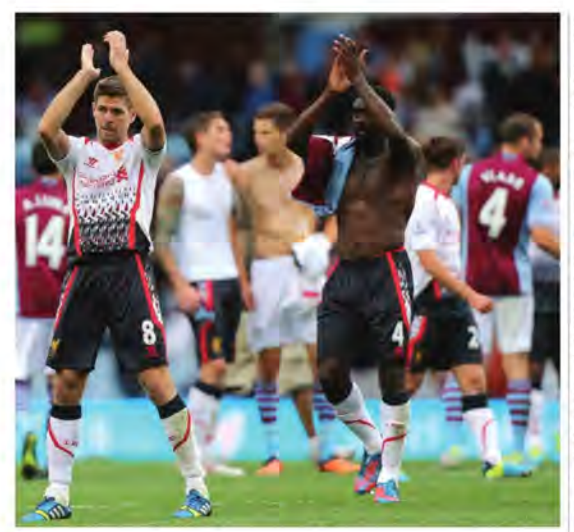


"As an experienced player, I learn from them as well. Everyday they come to training, give their best, give 100% and enjoy themselves. When they come from the Academy, you can see the focus they've got. You can see they really want to make it. That shows the spirit of this football club. There's a great mentality here and that's why I think Liverpool are on the rise.

"Raheem [Sterling] everyday in training will give you 100%. At the start of the season, he didn't play much but he kept on working hard and now he's playing more than anybody. I think this

Kolo helps keep a smile on everyone's face


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season he's been amazing. Every time he plays, he's unbelievable.

"Flanno is amazing too. Right at the start of the season, I think I said on the radio that I can see Flanno coming on because he's going to be a great leader. At the start of the season he didn't play a lot of games, but he never complained. He kept working hard every day.

"I've seen some young players in the past give up when they don't play. But with Flanno, Raheem and even Jordon Ibe and Andre Wisdom who are out on loan, they are all fighters. Every day at training they give 100%."

What about someone like Mamadou Sakho, still young but new to the Premier League when he arrived last August with a big price-tag to boot? "I've been very impressed with him. He's a very good guy and very intelligent as well. He knows what you want and listens to everybody. He's adapted very quickly. He's even doing thing outside of football too. He does a lot of charity work and things for the kids in Senegal. It shows he has a big heart and is a top guy."

The received opinion was that Kolo himself was brought in to replace Jamie Carragher, certainly in terms of experience and charisma. "Like I always say, there is only one Jamie Carragher. What he did for this club and English football was amazing. I just try and do what I can because in life, for me, everybody has this

"We have so many good young players and if we keep them we'll just get better"

quality [leadership]. Each person is different and I just want to do what Kolo Toure can do."

For all his geniality Toure is also the ultimate professional. Knowing when to focus is testament as to why Toure remains at the top level at this stage of his career. "I just work hard every day – there is no short cut. There's never a day where I come in and I'm like: I don't want to train today. Of course there are times when you feel tired but you have to carry on working hard because as soon as you stop doing that, you drop your level.

"If you drop your level you won't be able to take your chance. You won't be able to cope with the Premier League

Applauding the fans after the win at Villa and giving everything against Stoke (below)

because there's no chance you can play here if you're not fit enough. That's why I just work really, really hard every day. As well as that, I control my diet because you have to control your weight, drink lots of water, do yoga. You have to do a lot of things right."

Toure started the season as first-choice centre-half and probably featured more than he thought after playing 15 games in his last season at City. "For me personally I think the season started very well. I played a few games and I'm very happy because I'm part of a really great team.

"Every game is very difficult to play in because there's lots of competition in every position, especially at the back. I've played some games and done my bit when the team needed me. For sure as a player you want to play more, but like I've said there's lots of competition within the team.

"Martin Skrtel has been great this season. He's a great footballer. Daniel Agger, Sakho and everyone has been doing their jobs very well. As a team we just try to fight and to win trophies, which is the target. We want to bring trophies and try to bring the club back where it belongs.

"For the team, me and everybody it's been a great season. Everybody has put in the work, the manager with his training sessions and every player putting in the effort to train very well to get better in games.

"At the start of the season, nobody expected us to be where we are now. The manager was the first person to believe it, then after him it was the captain. The team will just enjoy this time and do everything we can.

"We have so many good young players now doing a fantastic job, along with the captain and manager. If we keep them around then Liverpool will be better and better every year. The future looks bright."





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GERRARD 08

data mining

ONE-CLUB MEN

- **IKER CASILLAS** (Real Madrid)
- **CARLES PUYOL** (Barcelona)
- **JAMIE CARRAGHER** (Liverpool)
- **PAOLO MALDINI** (AC Milan)
- **DANIELE DE ROSSI** (AS Roma)
- **BASTIAN SCHWEINSTEIGER** (Bayern Munich)
- **STEVEN GERRARD** (Liverpool)
- **XAVI** (Barcelona)
- **FRANCESCO TOTTI** (AS Roma)
- **ANDRES INIESTA** (Barcelona)
- **RYAN GIGGS** (Manchester United)
- **LIONEL MESSI** (Barcelona)



passing accuracy
(up to and including 20 April 2014)

42 penalties scored for Liverpool following his double at West Ham on 6 April 2014 taking him level with Jan Molby as all-time spot-kick king for LFC



Pirlo on Stevie

First came the Makelele role – deeper lying enforcer protecting the midfield back-four. Now we have the Pirlo position – dictating play from the same position with the emphasis as much upon tempo and creativity as prevention and power.

Andrea Pirlo, currently chasing the Serie A title with Juventus, turns 35 on 19 May – eleven days before Gerrard celebrates his own 34th birthday. He believes Steven is perfect for the role. "Intelligent players adapt and Gerrard has the ability to do that. He is an excellent passer of the ball and has great vision. He has all the qualities to play deeper. If you look after yourself and are willing to adapt, there is no reason why you can't play at the top level until your late 30s. It is very possible he has many years left for Liverpool and England in a new role."



"A SPECIAL TYPE OF PLAYER"

Manager Brendan Rodgers had no doubts about deploying the skipper in the controlling role. "It's a special type of player who can play that position. Lucas has played there outstandingly well for us, Joe Allen has played it well, and Steven can play it because of his personality.

"If you look at the profile of someone in that position, tactically it's someone who can co-ordinate the game and can lead it from behind. You have to understand when to play short, when to play long, and when to press the ball. You need to have charisma and leadership qualities to play in there. You need to have the love of the football. You need to want the ball. You have got to be the guy who opens up the game for the team.

"Steven has all those qualities. Steven is not – and he will tell you himself – at 33 what he was at 23. But what he still has are world-class qualities such as his passing and his reading of the game. You see with his passing range – short and long – that he can really contribute from there. I believe that role could prolong his career into his late 30s."



ASSIST OF THE SEASON Steven's pass for Daniel Sturridge v Fulham (A) Wed 12 Feb 2014









How Brendan Rodgers gets the best from his creative quartet

AWESOME



PHILIPPE COUTINHO

Passing and pressing across the park

Liverpool strikers Luis Suarez and Daniel Sturridge have both praised the perfect passing of the Brazilian, with the latter describing him simply as "the man."

Inevitably the exact through-balls that Philippe Coutinho attempts won't always work. However, it would be pointless trying such passes if he didn't have colleagues making intelligent, well-timed forward bursts. Brendan Rodgers has put plenty of those players around Coutinho to ensure, no matter in which role he operates, he has a number of runners to release – with Suarez, Sturridge, Sterling and Jordan Henderson all benefiting from the type of defence-eliminating pass from which the last of that quartet scored in our 2-1 win at Aston Villa last season.

Yet it isn't just with the ball that the man from Rio threatens. Despite his size, the no10 presses opponents all over the pitch to regain possession. "He's worked on it [being more physical]," Rodgers pointed out when talking about Coutinho's "man strength." Hatem Ben Arfa will testify to that after he was shrugged off the ball in LFC's 6-0 win at St James' Park last season, while more recently Jack Wilshire clearly didn't enjoy numerous tussles with the Brazilian during Arsenal's visit to Anfield.

LUIS SUAREZ

World class and always a team player

When you possess a player who by general consent is already one of the world's best, how do you get even more out of him? Prior to the arrival of manager Brendan Rodgers, the no7 had scored 21 goals in his first season-and-a-half with us.

Since the Ulsterman and Uruguayan combined, the striker has provided 60 goals (after the recent 3-2 win over Norwich City at Carrow Road). "What's encouraging for me is that he actually improved as a player since he came back from his ban [in September]," says the boss.

Rodgers has created a unit that plays to the strengths of the South American. Putting him alongside Sturridge means central defenders can't double-up on either forward, creating more space. Coutinho's passing ensures the ball gets to Suarez in dangerous areas, while Sterling's speed facilitates counter-attacks, with the duo combining regularly such as for Raheem's first goal in the 5-1 win over Arsenal.

Suarez's energy is one of the reasons why he's so effective. Rodgers has helped him channel it for the benefit of the side, with that Gunners game – in which he featured on the right to target Nacho Monreal – a prime example. "It showed what a true team player he is," the manager remarked afterwards.

FOURSOME



RAHEEM STERLING

Sublime talent and tactically aware

Being used in a variety of roles, on either flank, at the tip of a midfield diamond or even as a wing-back against Crystal Palace back in October, has helped to increase the exciting teenager's tactical awareness.

Brendan Rodgers has deliberately tried to develop this side of the player's game, remarking: "Raheem is a clever footballer. For a young boy, tactically he's very good."

Sterling's form of recent months would have been hard to imagine during the first half of 2013/14 when, as he's admitted, he struggled. In particular Liverpool's 3-1 defeat at Hull City was a bad day. "I was disappointed with myself because I'd been looking for a chance and I didn't take it," he's said of the afternoon at the KC Stadium.

Others might have been tempted to leave Raheem out for the next game, but the fact that Rodgers did the opposite instilled confidence in the youngster. In turn it helped him to play a pivotal part in big games, including wins over Arsenal and Manchester City. Even opponents have been rightly impressed, with Spurs boss Tim Sherwood mentioning Sterling in the same breath as Suarez and Sturridge after his team's 4-0 defeat at Anfield.



DANIEL STURRIDGE

Working hard as well as scoring goals

It might sound simplistic, but one of the main ways that the manager has helped Daniel Sturridge to consistently display his true, irresistible ability is by playing him in his best position – upfront.

Prior to arriving at Anfield, Daniel had spent the majority of his fledgling career with Chelsea out wide, with the 24-year-old recalling: "They always said: you're not a centre-forward – you're a winger. That's how they saw me." He's said the situation caused him to lose his love for the game.

Positioning him on the flank was an unusual decision when you consider he'd grown up as a marksman and spent his time at Manchester City in that role. Brendan Rodgers immediately returned him to the more familiar position, and just seven minutes in to his LFC career he found the net against Mansfield Town in the FA Cup. Since then he's led the line superbly and clearly enjoyed his football. While the goals have flowed – 34 at the time of writing – it's his all-round game that Rodgers has demanded he develop. That's happened: Sturridge's pace allows the team to quickly break forward, while his trickery ensures he can hold up the ball and occupy defenders. There's also his ability to drop deep and play one-twos to release team-mates.



WE GO AGAIN!

Liverpool Ladies midfielder and magazine columnist Amanda Da Costa reflects on a busy few weeks as the new FA WSL season gets underway…

If I have learned anything during this pre-season, it is to expect the unexpected and that being put on your heels isn't necessarily a bad thing. In fact, I think that after several unexpected injuries within our squad forcing us to make some changes and unify more than ever, you could argue that being put on our heels may have been the best thing to happen to us as a group.

After all, we continue to improve our performances in each match and, if you ask me, that is a definite sign of strength not weakness. I've often been asked if we are feeling pressure this season to defend our league title and have similar success to last year. The answer to that question is, no. We do not feel the pressure that everyone keeps talking about. As far as I'm concerned, that pressure doesn't even exist to us and is something that only we can place on ourselves.

Preparing for our first match of the season came with some challenges and considerable amounts of first-game excitement. After attending the launch of the FA WSL at the brand new BT Sport studio, it was brought to my attention how big this season is going to be for everyone involved in the first and second leagues.

> "Do we feel pressure as we defend our title? No"

The game has grown in leaps and bounds, and the partnership with BT Sport shows the potential of this growing women's football market. The channel is using its innovation as a company this year in an attempt to bring our personalities out on television and into your living-room. Some of the things that you get to look out for this year is a spoof commercial that I was grateful to be a part of, promos which portray the players of the league as strong female role models, a 'tweet the teams' campaign where good luck messages from fans are displayed in the tunnel before the teams take their places on the pitch, and a 'driving camera' which most recently found itself in the back of my car along with team-mate Corina Schroder on the way to our first match against Manchester City.

Getting the opportunity to take part in the creative push to raise interest and awareness in women's football





is one of the reasons I wanted to come play in this country. The opportunities for females are only continuing to grow, and one day I hope that the young girls coming to watch us now will one day get to play on the same pitch in front of more fans, on even more televisions.

For now, women's football is in a positive place, and the Liverpool Ladies were one of the first teams of this FA WSL season to be broadcast live. Our match against Manchester City made a splash on the women's football scene, where a large crowd saw us battle out a 1-0 win.

The first match of the season is always a difficult one because along with it comes a great deal of emotions. The buzz of a TV game, the energy of a big crowd and the nerves about starting the season off on the right foot are all factors that affected the quality of our performance that night. It might not have been a pretty game but it was certainly entertaining as we had an early goal disallowed followed by City going close, forcing our new keeper Libby Stout to make some top saves. A late goal from last year's Golden Boot recipient Natasha Dowie saw us through to the win, where we'd later look back with a sense of pride to wear the LFC 'Patch for the 96' on our kits.

One of the things about Liverpool that remains constant from the Academy level all the way up to the first team and now the Ladies is the fight that this club embodies. We may have been unexpectedly put on our heels with two season-ending injuries [Nicole Rolser and Lucy Staniforth] during pre-season, but the fight in this group of girls remains untouched and it's going to make for a very interesting season!

It seems lately my life has been completely consumed by football. We are training full-time now at our home pitch of the Select Security Stadium in Widnes, and the challenge for me lately has been to balance time to myself and my life back in New York with the high demands of our football schedule. Balancing the two worlds has always been a challenge, and sometimes I think I'm living in an alternate universe where people speak in funny accents. It is hard to ignore that the lives of my family and loved ones continue to go on outside my own, and that other side of my life is even more important than football.

Ladies players with the lads at the Celebration of the 96 day at Anfield



Our girl shows off her skills for a good cause

As well as supporting the Liverpool FC Foundation as much as I can, I've recently become a member of the Online Soccer Academy World Juggle-a-Thon (or 'keepie-ups' as everyone here calls it!) which has partnered up with a foundation called *Nothing But Nets* to raise awareness for malaria. Every 60 seconds a child in Africa dies from a malaria infection, which could be prevented with a supply of nets to protect their homes. All it takes is people around the world to be aware of the problem, and $10 of donations to make and supply these nets. I've spent the past month collecting donations so that on World Malaria Day, 28 April, I juggled for an hour in Liverpool with other 'jugglers' doing the same all around the world.

It is important to remember that while my focus and my life is playing football with Liverpool Ladies, there are still things that go on in the world that may or may not affect me. Being able to use football as a way to raise awareness for these causes is something I am very grateful for, and I hope that in reading this you might give a little something back today. Anyone wishing to donate can do so by visiting **www.onlinesocceracademy.com/osa-world-juggle-a-thon**.

For all the latest on Amanda and her team-mates and the FA WSL please visit **www.ladies.liverpoolfc.com**.

100

20



THE END OF THE AGONY FOR SPURS

ONE . . . two . . . three . . . four . . . five . . . and Spurs haven't finished conceding goals yet. Coming up is No. 6—a Phil Neal special from the penalty spot—and below, Terry McDermott hits goal No. 7, after a series of passing moves which left the Spurs defence stranded. So, finally, it's all over . . . the end of the agony for Spurs.

MAN IN THE MIDDLE

TODAY'S man in the middle is referee Dennis Turner, from Cannock (Staffs.), who began refereeing at 18 in the local Cannock Youth League, then progressed via the Staffs. County (South) and West Midlands Regional leagues to the full League list.

Mr. Turner refereed the 1974 Amateur Cup final, has had charge of Anglo-Italian Cup matches and lined a European Cup-tie in Malta and the 1972 Wales-Northern Ireland international.

Married, with two children, he is a mines-safety engineer, and apart from Soccer his sporting interests are club cricket and swimming.

TOTTENHAM (H) WON 7-0

First Division 2 September 1978

Liverpool swept Tottenham aside with a performance that ranks alongside the best-ever seen in top-flight English football. With Argentinian World Cup stars Osvaldo Ardiles and Ricky Villa in the ranks, newly-promoted Spurs had travelled north hoping to end their 60-year wait for a win at Anfield. They returned home having suffered their heaviest post-war defeat. Bob Paisley's reigning European champions laid down an ominous marker in their quest to reclaim the domestic crown they'd surrendered the previous season. Two Kenny Dalglish goals inside the first 20 minutes set the tone and by the interval Ray Kennedy had added another. A David Johnson double made it 5-0 ahead of the hour-mark before Phil Neal's twice-taken penalty saw Liverpool add a sixth. The crowning moment came via the head of Terry McDermott 14 minutes from time – a goal Bob Paisley rated as the finest scored at Anfield and the perfect end to a perfect performance.

PART NINE: 20 TO 11 By Mark Platt

GREATEST GAMES

19 ARSENAL (H) WON 5-0

First Division 18 April 1964

Liverpool wrapped up Bill Shankly's maiden League title success on an afternoon when the Kop exploded into the nation's consciousness for the first time. With four games left to play the Reds required a point to be champions. In front of the TV cameras 28,000 Kopites provided a harmonious backdrop to proceedings on the pitch. Pre-match nerves were eased when Ian St John opened the scoring after seven minutes and Alf Arrowsmith made it 2-0 before the break. With the title all but secured Liverpool strolled through the second half, adding goals through Peter Thompson (2) and Roger Hunt. This was the day everyone had longed for since the last title triumph of 1947 and there was a crescendo of noise around Anfield as the players embarked on their lap of honour.





18 WEST HAM (CARDIFF) DREW 3-3 (WON ON PENS)

FA Cup final 13 May 2006

Twelve months after Istanbul the Reds did it again, retrieving a seemingly lost cause in a major cup final. On a baking hot day in the Welsh capital it was the underdogs from East London who drew first blood, courtesy of a Jamie Carragher own-goal then an effort from Dean Ashton. Djibril Cisse reduced the deficit before half-time and when Steven Gerrard restored parity after the restart Liverpool breathed a huge sigh of relief. It was only a temporary reprieve as Paul Konchesky made it 3-2. As the claret-and-blue ribbons were being tied to the trophy, the Reds captain intervened again with a long-range strike to force extra-time. He then hit the net for a third time in the penalty shoot-out and Pepe Reina saved three out of four spot-kicks to clinch the club's seventh FA Cup.



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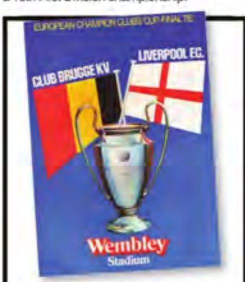
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17 CHELSEA (A)
WON 1-0
First Division 10 May 1986

He couldn't have written the script better if he'd tried: player/manager Kenny Dalglish, in his first season in the job, scores the goal to win Liverpool the title on the final day of the league campaign. Stamford Bridge was the venue and, having clawed back a points deficit that just two months previous had been deemed insurmountable, the Reds now required only one more victory to complete the first leg of a League and FA Cup double. Mersey rivals Everton were waiting in the wings should Liverpool slip up but Kenny made sure there was no danger of that. With 23 minutes gone he lost his marker, killed Jim Beglin's looping pass on his chest and shot beyond keeper Tony Godden to send the 10,000-strong army of travelling Liverpudlians wild with delight. A tense end ensued as the home side piled on the pressure but Liverpool held firm to secure a 16th First Division championship.





16 FC BRUGES (WEMBLEY)
WON 1-0
European Cup final 10 May 1978

Twelve months after being crowned kings of Europe for the first time, Liverpool were back in the final looking to become the first British side to retain the trophy. Kevin Keegan had gone, but in Kenny Dalglish fans had a new hero. With Liverpudlians making up the majority of the 92,000 Wembley crowd the stage was set for another special European night, but this was not to be the free-flowing spectacle of the previous season. Bruges came to defend and their spoiling tactics made for a drab encounter lightened only by Dalglish's winner on 65 minutes – a superb chip over the keeper following a defence-splitting pass by fellow newcomer Graeme Souness. It was a fitting finale to an unforgettable first season at Anfield and proof of Liverpool's emergence as the new power in European football.

15 ALAVES (DORTMUND)
WON 5-4
UEFA Cup final 16 May 2001



The most amazing UEFA Cup final of all-time went Liverpool's way on a historic night at the Westfalenstadion. In a game that had everything, Gerard Houllier's Reds were big favourites against Spanish minnows Alaves, and the confidence increased after goals from Markus Babbel and Steven Gerrard saw them race into a 2-0 lead inside 16 minutes. Even when Ivan Alonso pulled a goal back, Gary McAllister restored the two-goal cushion before the interval and the cup seemed destined for Merseyside. Within six minutes of the restart though Liverpool were stunned as Javi Moreno scored twice to draw Alaves level. Robbie Fowler then came off the bench and netted what looked to be the winner only for Jordi Cruyff to force extra-time with a last-gasp equaliser. The sudden-death nature of the golden-goal rule ensured there was no let-up and Alaves had two men sent off before Delfi Geli headed McAllister's 116th-minute free-kick into his own net to complete Liverpool's unprecedented cup treble.







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14 CHELSEA (H) WON 1-0

Champions League semi-final second leg 3 May 2005

With a place in the Istanbul final at stake following a cagey goalless draw in the first leg in London, this was always going to be a special occasion. But even by Anfield's high standards the atmosphere was simply unprecedented. Every single Liverpool fan inside the stadium roared on the Reds and the Premier League champions-elect buckled. The ground erupted after four minutes when Liverpool took the lead with a goal that will forever spark debate. It came via the left boot of Luis Garcia. Chelsea claimed the ball didn't cross the line, the linesman's flag said otherwise. Eidur Gudjohnsen spurned a gilt-edged opportunity to break Liverpudlian hearts in stoppage time and amid wild scenes of celebration Liverpool's ticket to the Ataturk Stadium and destiny was confirmed.



EVERTON (WEMBLEY) WON 3-2

FA Cup final 20 May 1989

In the aftermath of the Hillsborough disaster an emotional and thrilling FA Cup final helped restore people's faith in the game. Just like three years before, Reds and Blues stood side-by-side on the Wembley terraces and they were treated to a five-goal encounter that swung in Liverpool's favour. Forward John Aldridge went some way to exorcising the demons of his penalty miss in the previous year's final when opening the scoring after five minutes. It looked like being the goal that would win the cup until Everton equalised through substitute Stuart McCall in the final minutes of normal time. Ian Rush also came off the bench to score, restoring Liverpool's lead in extra-time only for the Blues to draw level with a second from McCall. A replay looked likely but Rushie popped up once more to glance a header past his Welsh colleague Neville Southall for the second time to seal victory.







12 INTER MILAN (H) WON 3-1

European Cup SF first leg 4 May 1965

Anfield's first big European occasion ranks as the greatest among older supporters. The visit of the reigning world club champions was eagerly anticipated and queues snaked their way around the ground from midday. The red half of Merseyside was already in a state of euphoria following the club's first FA Cup triumph three days earlier and the tone was set when Shanks sent out injured stars Gerry Byrne and Gordon Milne with the trophy. Liverpool proceeded to hand out a footballing lesson to Inter's stars. By half-time they were 2-1 ahead through goals from Roger Hunt and Ian Callaghan. Sandro Mazzola's away goal would ultimately prove crucial but it failed to dampen the party atmosphere. Inter's fate could have been worse had a Chris Lawler goal not been disallowed but Ian St John increased the margin of victory late in the second half.

11

REAL MADRID (PARIS) WON 1-0

European Cup final 27 May 1981

Liverpool joined an elite band of teams to be crowned European champions on three occasions with a famous victory against the club that had dominated the competition in its formative years. In what was the first meeting between the Reds and Real Madrid, a classic final had been predicted. As a spectacle on the night it failed to live up to its billing but for the Liverpudlians who converged on the French capital in their thousands that was of no concern. A game of few clear-cut scoring opportunities gave the packed Parc de Princes stadium little to get excited about until an unlikely source popped up to score the winning goal with nine minutes remaining. From a throw-in on the left Ray Kennedy picked out his namesake Alan and the full-back barged through the Madrid defence before unleashing an angled shot that beat the keeper at his near post. It was enough to clinch the giant trophy for a third time and place manager Bob Paisley among the footballing immortals.



NEXT MONTH: PART TEN



STREET PARTY

Catching up with the fan group that arranged those amazing pre-match welcomes for the team

Anfield is used to swathes of red-and-white and exhilarating support inside the stadium, but have there ever been scenes like this outside the ground before?

Ahead of the Premier League fixture against Sunderland, fans group Spion Kop 1906 helped to mobilise an awe-inspiring welcome for the team coach as it inched along Anfield Road, and it was the same for the game with Manchester City before the volume, flags and banners were transferred to the famous stand itself.

After the Sunderland match, Brendan Rodgers made a point of saluting the efforts of the fans: "It filled me with great pride. As we were driving in, to get that support and then have that in the stadium – the supporters really lifted us and got us over the line."

Following the City clash, Martin Skrtel added: "The atmosphere was unbelievable, even on the street before the game when we were arriving. The fans showing their support and that's always great for the players. We need to say thanks for that."

We caught up with a spokesman from Spion Kop 1906 to find out more about the whole operation…





What inspired the idea?

We'd previously had three away games before Sunderland and with it being a midweek match we wanted to generate an atmosphere around the ground as we knew a win would fire us back to the top of the league. A few years ago, fans lined the streets before the Spurs game to get behind the team and the manager and it inspired us to win 2-0. We wanted to do similar and create an atmosphere to get the players ready for the game. I'd like to think it worked as we got the three points and the atmosphere in and around the ground was better. It got a bit tense during the game but overall it was job done.

How much planning goes into it?

A lot. We generally get into the ground an hour before kick-off to set up all the poles and flags. If we are doing a long banner, then that is started a few weeks in advance. We either pass the image to a designer who creates it for us or we all meet up and paint it together. A lot of work and thought goes into the designs. It is a group effort which we are all a part of.

It must have been great to get such feedback from the manager and players?

It's always good to hear positive comments. It's good to know that we are doing our part. We've been doing



this for years and it is always nice to hear good feedback from players and other fans. We don't do this for praise – we do this to generate an atmosphere in the ground and to make the Kop unique to anything else in this country.

What's lined up for the remaining matches?

For Manchester City we met on Anfield Road at the King Harry to welcome the coach in again before getting in the ground early to get all the flags sorted. The most important thing that day was that it was the 25th anniversary of Hillsborough and we had a design planned that was on display. Every year we use the game nearest to the 15th as a Hillsborough display. It was no different this year and was the centre of attention on the Kop alongside all our other flags and banners. We are still in discussions over what to do for the remaining matches. We're having to take it each game at a time!

You can follow **@SpionKop1906** on Twitter. Donations towards new flags and banners are always welcome.

WITHOUT WHOM

A pictorial salute to the world's best supporters – making LFC special since 1892

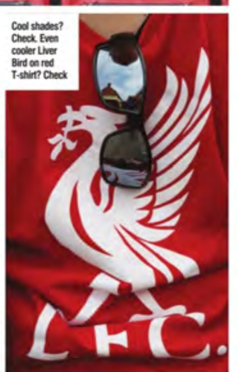




One young supporter in fetching gloves – well it *is* Stoke City away in the middle of January



Great view for Carra who's most definitely wishing he was still out there on the pitch



Cool shades? Check. Even cooler Liver Bird on red T-shirt? Check



That's what you call YNWA writ large. Reds fans in full voice for the FA Cup tie at Arsenal



Dad 'n' lad taking it all in before the April fixture at West Ham's Upton Park



Just can't get enough: the Centenary Stand salutes another Suarez goal

Daniel Sturridge hands his shirt to one young Kopite after the home win over Crystal Palace



Movie star and Liverpool fan Mike Myers poses with a junior Red before the Fulham home game



Old school cool: one fan shows off his beanie hat and enamel badges from a bygone era

Saying it loud and clear in the Liverpool end before the Goodison derby in November



We're behind you: magnificent Kop backing before the 4-0 win over Tottenham on 30 March


SUPPORT & BELIEVE
1977
1978
1981
1984
ROME
MAKE US DREAM
ALLEZ
LES ROUGES
SUAREZ
7
8
SKRTEL

Martin Skrtel is mobbed by team-mates and fans alike following his first goal against Arsenal



Main man: a flag saluting the manager who's made the supporters dream



Read all about: flicking through another matchday programme before kick-off

THIS IS ANFIELD

Our historic – and modern – home as it could look under new plans unveiled by the club

Liverpool Football Club has unveiled its stadium expansion plans with detailed proposals for the Main Stand and outline proposals for the Anfield Road Stand.

Public consultation and exhibitions on the proposals have taken place with LFC asking for residents, fans and local businesses to give their views as part of the planning application which it expects to submit in the summer.

The detailed design proposals for the redevelopment of the Main Stand could add an additional 8,500 seats taking its capacity to nearly 21,000 and overall Anfield capacity to around 54,000. Incorporating the club crest into the proposed Main Stand's exterior elevation, the scheme will also include a two-storey podium and a carefully designed cloister which will become the new home for the Hillsborough Memorial. The Main Stand will open onto a wide public concourse which will link the stadium into the wider Anfield area, while the outline proposals for the Anfield Road Stand provide for an increase in its capacity of around 4,800 seats.

Ian Ayre, the club's managing director, says: "We need to have certainty that we can navigate the complex planning process and secure the support of the community, local home owners, businesses and other key stakeholders… We started this journey just over 18 months ago and a lot of work has already been done. There is still an incredible amount to do, but good progress has been made so far and we are proud to be able to unveil our plans."

If consent is granted, work could begin early next year and it could be complete in time for 2016/17.




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Neil MELLOR

Jon Flanagan's first-team presence is an inspiration to the next generation

If Liverpool win the Premier League title this season it will be a monumental achievement. It would be inspiring for everybody but especially for the club's young players.

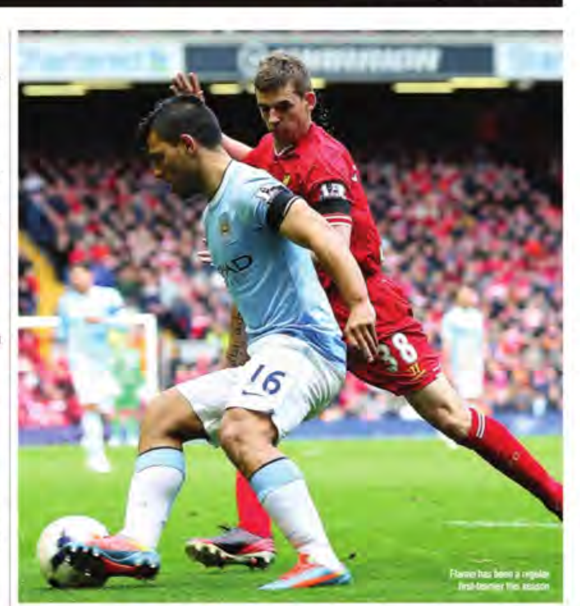
In your career you want to be associated with the most successful club. No matter how old you are you don't want to be associated with a club getting relegated or underachieving.

I remember being a teenager trying to break into the first-team squad when Gerard Houllier's side secured a cup treble in 2000/01. I was fortunate to go to all of the finals. Seeing the stadium, the noise of the crowd and the adulation you receive when all goes well – it drives you on. You want to be a part of it.

We were a part of the official travelling party but not the celebrations. That gives you something to aim for. It's a glimpse of what it could all be like. It also means you become closer to the fans because you're on the terraces with them, singing and chanting.

For the Under-21 and Under-18 lads to see Jon Flanagan playing a crucial role is significant too. He is one of them. He's been through the Academy. He knows what it's like – all the uncertainty, not knowing whether the dream will be realised in becoming an established first-team player.

Suddenly lads like Connor Randall are coming to the fore in the Under-21s. He deserves credit in his own right for developing, for having the ability and the attitude. But as a right-back, I'm sure seeing someone like Flanagan featuring in the first team will have urged him on. He's a really solid player, Connor, and I look forward to seeing a continuation of his progress next season.



Flanno has been a regular first-teamer this season

> **"I'm sure that seeing Jon in the first team will have urged the young players on"**

Alex Inglethorpe and his staff have done a fantastic job with the Under-21s. At the time of writing they too were in a position to win the league. The average age of the squad is very young. Many of the players are under 18. At that age it usually shows in performance because it is a time when a player's physique is reflected by how old he is. Yet this group have been able to step up, develop, and get results.

Perhaps this is best illustrated by someone like Jordan Rossiter. He's the youngest player in the Under-21s but he's played in the most games. In March he was rewarded by a new long-term contract on his 17th birthday.

I didn't sign my first professional deal until I was 19 and while I appreciate times have changed with clubs getting players tied up a lot earlier now, fearing they might go somewhere else, Rossiter has been a huge success this season. He's a real presence on the pitch with his personality. Mixed with the ability, the potential is clear for all to see. I'm sure he also possesses the character to appreciate there is a lot of work to be done yet.

Follow Neil on Twitter @NeilMellor33


21

IT'S A VERY SPECIAL FEELING TO BE WHERE WE ARE NOW

Lucas has seen it all in seven years at LFC – highs and lows, setbacks and comebacks, and now a new positional challenge, he tells Simon Hughes…




KHO
7

Boy from Brazil: in a recent team photo

Seven years at Liverpool makes you the longest-serving Brazilian at any English club in history...

Wow, I did not realise that. I knew Gilberto Silva was at Arsenal for maybe six years. Today we can see many Brazilians here in the Premier League. Brazilians want to come here and clubs want to sign Brazilians. But when I first came, I think I was only the second Brazilian to play for Liverpool. We had a very small part in England. I would've liked to win more things in this time, but there are still many things to achieve because I am still only 27. I am confident it will come very soon.

> "I've been lucky over the years to have people around me that did not let me give up"

It could just be the Premier League title...

You know, a friend in Brazil called me the other day. He said: 'Lucas, what would be more important to win for Liverpool – the Premier League or the Champions League?' I told him that at this moment it has to be the league. For other teams maybe Europe would be more important. But I think about what that might feel like – being a part of the team that wins the league for the first time in nearly a quarter-of-a-century – and I get excited. Winning the league has the same importance to the people of Liverpool as winning the World Cup does for the people of Brazil. No Brazilian team has ever won the World Cup in our country and no Liverpool team has won the league in 24 years. If we do this, we will be remembered in history. It would be very special if it happened, incredible. I don't think Liverpool as a city will see anything like it again.

How is the Lucas of 2014 a different player and person to the one that signed for Liverpool in 2007?

The first thing I think of is how hard it was. For me, I was so young. Everything was like a snowball. Every day something different was happening. Sometimes I thought I'd never get through. You see many foreign players come here, struggle and then give up or look for a change very quickly. You are young and you want everything right away. You do not have patience. Then you put doubts in your head. 'Can I play at this level?' Because you don't have the experience to trust yourself. But I think I'm lucky I have people around me that did not let me give up. I'm a person that doesn't give up so easily as well. Of course, had I felt I could not offer any more, I would have asked for a change. I'm a person that tries everything before looking for a way out. But that was not what I thought at that moment and that's why I think that I am still here.

I'm a lot tougher mentally. I trust myself more. You have to be like that if you want to play for Liverpool for a long time. It's fantastic when you are winning games, but you have another side as well. The other players who have been here longer than me, Stevie, Agger and Skerts, will tell you the same. They have been in the worst moments too. Managers have come and gone. We haven't been in the Champions League. There has been different owners, lots of players – your friends – moving away. Then I've had injuries too.



"Lots of players have had chances when they didn't expect it – that's football"



Through all that the pressure remains high – as it should because of the club's history. You've got to be tough.

This is another time where mental strength will be tested with the potential of Liverpool winning the league and Brazil naming their World Cup squad in the same week...

Yes it is. They are both my aims, and to play of course. I know Stevie is playing in my position and doing very, very well. So that's why I'm working hard and maybe looking – not towards another position – but maybe another way I can help, and still play beside Stevie. Because I know him being in the team in that position, my chances will be limited. Besides Kenny, Stevie is considered one of the club's greatest players and he is still one of the best in Europe. He is our captain, a fantastic player and a fantastic person as well. He's our leader. So I just have to see if I can help in any way. Especially being here for so long, I want to be part of it at this moment where the team is really close [to the title]. I think of the bad moments and think now, and there is no comparison. The stage is very different. For the last three or four years it has been so hard for the club. I stayed because I always believed the club would be back competing for titles and things like that. So I just want to help in any way. I just hope it finishes with a happy end with the club winning the league and then being selected for Brazil at the World Cup.

Has the boss Brendan Rodgers spoken to you about your position in the team?

We sat down in January where he explained that he wanted to use Stevie as a holding player and me on the side of the three midfielders or the diamond. I had to re-adjust. It's something I feel comfortable with. Of course, as much as you play you feel even more comfortable. You know you can help more. Football is like that. At the moment, I am not thinking about what might happen next season. There is such a great opportunity here this season. It would not help myself, the team or Brendan to start to thinking too much. When it is all over I will think about the best way I can fit. But football is a strange sport where everything can change in the space of 90 minutes. My career in football has been up, down, up and down. This is normal. But I always tried to get back and be strong. It's not that easy, though. Sometimes it's frustrating. There have been hard times for me. This time after the injury, it has been different because the team is doing so well and it is difficult for the manager to change things. You understand that. I know that the only way is to train hard and prepare. Lots of players this season have had chances when they did not expect it. Suddenly you are in the team and you are away. Football is like that. I don't think any player has ever just been up all of the time.

Of course you have experience in playing in a more advanced midfield role...

Yes, at Gremio. We used to play a lot of time in a diamond. We had a holding midfielder, a playmaker then me – more box to box. The playmaker did not run forward so much but I had the energy and freedom to join the attack. It's pretty much the same Brendan asks here if we play in a

In the thick of things at Carrow Road

diamond. Yes, you have to look after the full-backs and, when the ball is on the other side of the pitch, help outside the holding midfielder. You also have to keep the ball but contribute to the attack. Mano Menezes [the former Gremio and Brazil coach] used to say that I went forward too much and sometimes lost my position. That was something I had to learn. Every day he'd say: you have to adjust.

Coming here and having Rafa as a manager I think it was just what I needed at the time. He reinforced everything that Mano had said. I think today maybe sometimes I am too responsible. As the holding midfielder I was always thinking about the team, the organisation – making sure it remains the same. Maybe I should take the risk a bit more. When you play [on the side of the diamond] you have the chance [to go forward]. When you play as a holding midfielder, it's harder to do that. As a holding midfielder if you are up there around the box, something is wrong. It is not something that Brendan wants. You can see this with Stevie now. His assists come from the dead ball: the free kicks, the corners. And of course, the goals are coming from the penalties because like me in that position, he cannot attack. You have to be behind the ball and be aware of the space.



You seem to have had close relationships with each of your managers...

The only one I never had too many discussions with was Roy Hodgson



but that was because he was only here a very short time in comparison to the others. Even so whenever I meet him, we have a chat. Brendan Rodgers, Kenny Dalglish and Rafa Benitez – they have things that are quite similar and things that are very different. Brendan's door is always open. He always has time for you. I feel free to speak to him. That relationship is important because you have to feel comfortable with the people you work with.

> **"Brendan's door is always open – he makes time for you to speak to him"**

Yet each manager has had a different style of play...

Tactically we were more conservative under Rafa, and under Brendan, more attacking. With Kenny it was in-between. But they all wanted the same thing and that was to win. You realise football can be played in a lot of ways. At the end, if you're winning games, that's all that that matters. Winning gives you the confidence to try different styles and in English football you need to be versatile, ready for anything – prepared to try all ways.

How important has Brendan Rodgers been to the emergence of this team?

Oh, very important – crucial. It feels like everything is in place now. The club is happy. We play good football, attacking football. There are many British players, young players. It helps in the dressing-room, the mix of young and old, because the young are lively and keep the old on their toes. We have not spent much money. Everybody fights for the same thing. To be where we are is a very special thing in football.



Celebrating another win with pal and team-mate Luis

With the gaffer and the skipper

No 9 dr





Steve Heighway, Reds winger for a decade then LFC Academy chief for another, looks back fondly with John Hynes


Taking the plaudits from Kevin Keegan

Before joining Liverpool I'd never trained properly.
I was originally on Manchester City's books as a junior and I'd occasionally done some training sessions there, maybe a dozen in total. Then I played for Skelmersdale United but never trained with them because I was away at university in Coventry during the week. So it meant I never knew what a real coaching session was. As a result I initially found it very tough at Liverpool, particularly during my first pre-season in 1970.

In my first game at Anfield I didn't actually know which end was the Spion Kop!
It was Gerry Byrne's testimonial and I'd just signed for the club. While growing up I was into football but hadn't been a fanatic. My brother supported Sheffield Wednesday and, probably because of that, I had a slight affection for Sheffield United. But I wasn't obsessed by the game. I think that worked in my favour because it meant I wasn't nervous or overawed by the prospect of playing for a big club. Maybe I was too naive to be nervous. That testimonial game was the first time I'd been to Anfield. Despite there being a load of goals in the match I didn't manage to score. But I think I caught the eye because I dribbled with the ball quite a lot – that was until someone advised me I should just let Stanley Matthews do that.

I was the no9 for Liverpool back then but shirt numbers didn't bother us...
I only wore that shirt because I'd taken Bobby Graham's place in the side. Bobby was a Scottish striker who unfortunately broke his leg against Chelsea and I came on to replace him, in October 1970. From then on I kept my place and started to wear his shirt. Kevin Keegan and John Toshack were usually upfront and I don't think either of them would have contemplated demanding the no9. Neither of them had an ego. Numbers didn't really matter to any of us – we just wanted to play.



eam

European Cup winner in 1977 with Ray Clemence

My journeys to Melwood involved getting three buses.

When I moved to Liverpool I lived in Maghull. For the first few months I had to use public transport. That meant three buses and it took quite a while. Then I found out Ian Callaghan lived reasonably close to me.

The fact that I was a footballer who'd been to university was a big deal for the media.

And initially some of my team-mates found it unusual. The press made a lot out of it – I suppose a footballer with a degree was something different. Some of the other players were a little weary of me when I first joined but not too many of them gave me stick about it. I had a sharp tongue so if anyone did I always came back with a line of my own. When the lads realised I could play, it made my background irrelevant. Providing you are not disruptive, I think most players overlook someone who is different or has different interests if they are good enough.

I once told Shanks I'd give him a sensible answer when he asked me a sensible question...

He was telling a story about a house being on fire to get a message across about helping out your team-mates. He asked if I would go get a bucket of water or just watch it burn? When he heard my reply he flipped. I didn't like to be put down and he didn't know how to handle the fact that I'd answered him back. In general though we got on very well. It was a good relationship. I think he had a lot of time for me.

When Shanks retired for a while we thought Brian Clough might replace him.

In the dressing-room we speculated about who would come in and some of the lads thought it might be Clough. There was real uncertainty at that point [the summer of 1974] because Shanks' retirement was a shock. As players we were all disappointed to see him go. Then that became worry because a new man might have wanted to bring in all of his own players.





1974 FA Cup final goalscorer

"Not one tie in Europe ever fazed us – we'd never give it a second thought"

Bob Paisley told us he didn't want the manager's job.

But he said he'd been given it and would do it. Initially I think he found it a difficult situation. We were a mature group and we all did our best to ensure the transition was smooth. Bob didn't change a lot and I think that was key. Then, as he gained more confidence, he found it easier. He grew into it.

On European trips the different interests within the squad became obvious.

Clearly we had good team spirit, but that didn't mean we all shared the same interests. It was emphasised when we travelled abroad. A group of us including Ian Callaghan, Brian Hall, Ray Clemence, Phil Neal, Joey Jones and David Johnson would go wandering around the different cities to see the sights. The others would stay in the hotel playing cards.

We never feared any opponent in Europe.

I don't remember a single tie that ever fazed us. We'd be told the draw for the next round and the only comment might have been: where is that? Then we'd forget about the game until it actually came around. I wouldn't say we were blasé about European football but we were very comfortable with it.

I cried my eyes out when I left Liverpool.

During 1979/80 and 80/81 I rarely played. Freddie Goodwin, who was the manager of Minnesota Kicks in the NASL, got in touch and asked if I'd be interested in moving there. My contract with Liverpool was coming to an end and they weren't going to offer me a new one. It was immensely sad to leave. Going to America was a good solution. I preferred to disappear rather than remain in England.

My coaching career began in America.

The Minnesota Kicks went bankrupt so I'd moved on to Philadelphia in the indoor league. Again though that club experienced financial problems. I was 35 by then. My family loved America so when the opportunity to remain there and move in to coaching came along it really appealed. I spent thousands of hours coaching in the Florida heat and then started working with the US Soccer Federation and the Under-20 national team. It was fantastic.

I hadn't ever considered returning to Liverpool.

My main interest in the US was working with a side called the Clearwater Chargers in Florida. I'm still involved there now. Leaving or coming back to England wasn't part of my plans. Then, late 1988, Liverpool offered me a job running their youth programme. It was hard work at the start but I loved it right up until leaving in 2007.

It's not just about producing a Fowler, McManaman, Gerrard, Carragher or Owen.

A few of the lads we worked with have become household names. Hundreds of others didn't make it at Liverpool. Unfortunately that's the nature of the game. It's obviously pleasing to see someone from the Academy progress through to the first team. But for me it's just as satisfying to see lads such as Ryan Flynn, Stephen Darby or Jay Spearing doing well somewhere else.



More recently as head of the LFC Academy

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Our man keeps Ian Rush on his toes



ME, ALDO, RUSHIE, THE KING & BIG JAN

Some of Liverpool's greatest-ever players warmed up for the Celebration of the 96 with a match against the gentlemen of the press. Result? No contest, writes Simon Hughes. But he knew that already









Back row (left to right): Aldridge, Evans, Rush, Whelan, Thomas, Molby, Jones, Kennedy, Dalglish. Front row: sacrificial lambs









Kenny Dalglish shows his back to me. I am five yards away. Jan Molby has possession. He doesn't need to look up. Calculating Dalglish will be the recipient of the pass, I trundle forward. This is my chance of an interception. He might be Liverpool's greatest player. But he is also more than twice my age. In those wild, brief moments, such ambitious thoughts tumble through my mind like a pair of football boots on a slow cycle in a washing-machine.

Dalglish shimmies his shoulder one way. The rest of him and the ball dart to the other. I stand still. Dalglish is running. He's fed someone else already. Ian Rush peels off to the right. John Aldridge repositions left-of-centre. Rush crosses to Aldridge. And with that, the reality is laid bare. The finish that follows is dispatched with all the professional ruthlessness you'd expect from someone who scored 330 goals in 610 league games.

I'm still standing still. Yet strangely contented that I have been duped by a piece of Dalglish skill. If it had to be anyone, I am glad it's him. It would be too adventurous to call it an opportunity for me anyway, a Sunday league player in semi-retirement. The process took seven to eight seconds. Now, the Legends are leading.

The call-up was late, less than 24 hours before. The Legends were seven days away from the Celebration of the 96 game in which they will mark the



25th anniversary of the Hillsborough tragedy by playing against one another in front of a capacity crowd at Anfield. On a sunny Monday afternoon in April, a friendly match against local press at Melwood was arranged in front of Brendan Rodgers, a few ground staff and a camera crew.

In the changing-rooms beforehand there are things you never realised before. Molby is much taller than you remember and therefore an even more formidable presence. Aldridge too has NFL linebacker shoulders, a chest of wrought iron and upper arms seemingly made of alloy.

On the wooden seats opposite are decorated footballers – folk that helped make Liverpool the most successful club in England, those that conquered Europe on foreign soils. There are plenty of jokes from the ex-players. There is baiting. The press, including me, laugh along like we are somehow part of it – as if we belong here. Inwardly it feels our role is already determined: turn up, run around, fall over and lose quite heavily. They might be wearing training attire without shinpads and we might be in a full kit but there is an inescapable feeling that we have all the gear and no idea.

The pitch at Melwood is a billiard table: green, flat and smooth. Then it begins. The Legends' domination territorially is absolute but we break quickly – a long ball over the top of the lone defender, Roy Evans, and giving chase. Hoping. Fearing what might happen next, journalists from *The Times*, *The Guardian* and *The Daily Mirror* celebrate hesitantly as we build a two-goal lead, the second of which is improbably scored by the writer of this report. Michael Thomas hesitates on the edge of the area and I capitalise, striking into the top corner, although for the heightened sense of drama in the piece, the distance may have been exaggerated a little.

Well that was me done. No matter what happened in the next hour of football, I had scored a goal against a team that included Dalglish, Rush, Molby and Aldridge. It shows as I spend the remainder of the game surrendering possession with astonishing consistency.

Two-nil becomes three-one, four-one and five-one. James Pearce from the *Echo* scores a hat-trick. We are in wonderland. Suddenly, the Legends are back in it when a press man (whose identity will remain anonymous unless the cameras have caught it and decide to release the video on YouTube) majestically heads past his own goalkeeper, Vinny O'Connor of Sky Sports. By half-time, the lead has been reduced to just one thanks to further strikes by Rob Jones (left-foot and very sweet), Aldridge, then Dalglish, deftly converted with the back















“Molby strides through like a battleship to chip in a seventh for the Legends”













of his heel after a move involving Alan Kennedy and Ronnie Whelan.

In the second half the change in approach from the Legends is noticeable. Molby moves from his libero/goalkeeper role and into the midfield, spraying passes from one side of the pitch to the other. They include an extra defender and employ a highly effective goal-hanger in Aldridge. With no offsides, the press team fall deeper and deeper and eventually the inevitable happens.

Yet this is not before a contentious penalty decision when the referee points to the spot after a reasonably high Dalglish pass strikes the chest (and not the hand) of an unfortunate midfielder running towards his own dead-ball line – that midfielder being me. Although Aldridge's penalty is saved spectacularly by O'Connor, the incident seems to galvanise the Legends who now know all the big decisions will go their way.

I am taken back to those legendary Melwood games between the staff: Shankly, Paisley, Fagan, Moran and Bennett versus the A and B team players where encounters would continue until the staff had established a lead.

Just like that the equaliser arrives via Rush's sharp turn and finish and soon the Legends are ahead for the first time when Aldridge soars highest to plant in the header which began this story.

Molby strides through midfield like a Tirpitz battleship before chipping in a seventh and although the now beleaguered press team manage to register an injury-time consolation, psychologically we all appreciate a glorious defeat is ours.

At the final whistle, there is relief. While the press escape with their dignity just about intact and the Legends act all humble, the suspicion remains that such is their greatness, they always knew it would end like this.

“Maybe next time wee man,” Dalglish says, smiling earnestly as he shakes my hand. “I doubt it,” I respond.



THE BOY WHO WOULD BE KING

Q I read something about Kenny Dalglish coming on trial to the club years before he signed. Is this correct? J Farrell, Winsford

A True. He came on trial when Bill Shankly was boss in the 60s. Liverpool wanted to sign him but Kenny's parents felt it was too early for him to leave his Glasgow home.

The Liverpool Official Archives are the brainchild of Norwegian statistician Jonny Stokkeland. He's spent countless hours researching the club's fixtures, not only at first-team level but also reserves and junior matches.

When Kenny Dalglish first pulled on a Liverpool shirt, it was not the no7 with which he'd become synonymous. Instead he played his first 90 minutes in the no8 shirt then associated with Roger Hunt and nowadays with Steven Gerrard. He was just 15.

Jonny explains: "I went through some of the old 'KOP' newspapers from the 1960s and came across the very game in question. It was a 'B' team match played on 20 August 1966 and despite having Kenny in the team, Liverpool were beaten by one goal to nil by a Southport side."

In his 2010 book *My Liverpool Home*, Kenny recalled the game: "I was just me, desperate to win as always. When we were losing 1-0, I had a chance to equalise but as I was about to roll the ball into the Southport net with my left foot, a wee guy called Jimmy Bowman nicked it off my toes and missed. I would have scored. Afterwards I trudged off the Melwood pitch, still seething at the incident and losing."

After also impressing in an Under-16s trial game, Kenny was accompanied by Shanks back to the YMCA where he was staying. Bill informed the youngster that he wanted to sign him and would send representatives to see his parents in Glasgow. But Kenny's father decided he was too young, and although he would later have a trial with Ron Greenwood's West Ham, Kenny would start his professional career with Celtic.

"Kenny's LFC debut in his trial was against a team from Southport"

Eleven years later Kenny finally made his senior debut for Liverpool against Manchester United in the Charity Shield at Wembley, this time in the no7 shirt he would wear with distinction on another 514 occasions.

Jonny adds: "It is interesting to think what might have happened had Kenny signed more than a decade before he actually did. It also seems significant that his 'debut' outing was against Southport – the town where he would eventually set up home. That 'B' team game is certainly an interesting part of his overall Liverpool story."

ASK JONNY...

Jonny and his team aim to help ex-players or families of ex-players requesting information and are grateful when they receive new biographical details. If you have an LFC-related query about a player or particular game, you can contact Jonny via lfcmag@programmemaster.com.

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RED ALERT

The new FA WSL is up and running, and reigning champions Liverpool Ladies entertain Champions League semi-finalists Birmingham City on Saturday 24 May.



The bit at the back for Liverpool's legions of fans at home and all over the world…



86 Previewing the Dublin trip



90 Teixeira's health kick



93 More fab LFC goodies



95 Win a World Cup book!

The month

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AWARDS NIGHT

LFC will stage their inaugural Players Awards Dinner, recognising first-team, Ladies and Academy players as well as fans at the Liverpool ACC Conference Centre on Tuesday 6 May. "We are one club and we pride ourselves on this mentality," says Brendan Rodgers. "The awards will bring together everyone." Tickets can be purchased from **www.liverpoolfc.com/playersawards.**



LADIES TAKE ON BLUES

The FA WSL is back in full swing and the Reds will play the final game before a month-long break when they host UEFA Champions League semi-finalists Birmingham on Saturday 24 May. Matt Beard's side will be looking to make home advantage count at the Select Security Stadium in Widnes. Tickets are priced £5 for adults or £2.50 for children and concessions.



ahead

LIVERPOOL V NEWCASTLE

Anfield, Sunday 11 May 3pm

An exciting campaign comes to a conclusion with the Reds entertaining Newcastle United on 11 May. Brendan Rodgers men have provided some thrilling performances in front of the Kop this season and will be hoping to sign off in style with a top-three finish already secured. Liverpool were held in the corresponding fixture last season while the teams played out a 2-2 draw at St James' Park in October.

BIRTHDAY XI

Tommy Lawrence 74 on 14 May
Andre Wisdom 21 on 9 May
Torben Piechnik 51 on 21 May
Nicky Tanner 49 on 24 May
Igor Biscan 36 on 4 May
Graeme Souness 61 on 6 May
Jimmy Case 60 on 18 May
Vladimir Smicer 41 on 24 May
Steven Gerrard 34 on 30 May
Howard Gayle 56 on 18 May
Samed Yesil 20 on 25 May



EUROPEAN CUP ANNIVERSARIES

41 years since Liverpool defeated Borussia Monchengladbach to win the UEFA Cup on 10 May
36 years since LFC beat Bruges to retain the European Cup on 10 May
9 years since the Miracle of Istanbul, Champions League final, on 25 May
37 years since Liverpool claimed their first European Cup on 25 May
33 years since Alan Kennedy gave the Reds European Cup no3 on 27 May







LFC TV ALL EYES ON BRAZIL



In just a month's time all eyes will be on Brazil and one of the biggest events in world sport. The 2014 FIFA World Cup will bring together 32 nations, all competing for a chance to win the most sought-after trophy in football.

From these nations, some of the most talented players in the world will dazzle fans on this global stage with their stunning displays of skill, flair and passion.

To set the scene ahead of the tournament LFC TV will be launching a brand new 10-part series. World Stars will form the centrepiece of the channel's schedule in the build-up to Brazil 2014.

Each 26-minute episode features exclusive interviews and match footage of twenty stars that are being tipped to light up this summer's four-week long footballing festival.



Every show focuses on two different players and these in-depth profiles will reveal why they are some of the most celebrated names in world football right now.

Among a star-studded cast, which includes the likes of Andres Iniesta, Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi, are Liverpool favourites Steven Gerrard, Luis Suarez and Daniel Sturridge.

Stay tuned to LFC TV for further details about World Stars and a complete schedule of when each show will be aired.

For just £2.99 LFC TV Online allows you to watch LFC TV live and will give you on-demand access to all the team's goals, highlights, live reserve and under-18 games, news and exclusive video interviews. For more information visit www.liverpoolfc.com/video.

Delayed coverage of every game will also be available on LFC TV which is free to view on Sky channel 429 or Virgin channel 544. For full listings visit www.liverpoolfc.com

FIXTURES 13/14

AUGUST

17 Stoke City **(H)**	1-0
24 Aston Villa **(A)**	1-0
27 Notts County **(H)** (COC 2)	4-2

SEPTEMBER

1 Manchester Utd **(H)**	1-0
16 Swansea City **(A)**	2-2
21 Southampton **(H)**	0-1
25 Manchester Utd **(A)** (COC 3)	0-1
29 Sunderland **(A)**	3-1

OCTOBER

5 Crystal Palace **(H)**	3-1
19 Newcastle Utd **(A)**	2-2
26 West Brom **(H)**	4-1

NOVEMBER

2 Arsenal **(A)**	0-2
9 Fulham **(H)**	4-0
23 Everton **(A)**	3-3

DECEMBER

1 Hull City **(A)**	1-3
4 Norwich City **(H)**	5-1
7 West Ham Utd **(H)**	4-1
15 Tottenham H **(A)**	5-0
21 Cardiff City **(H)**	3-1
26 Manchester City **(A)**	1-2
29 Chelsea **(A)**	1-2

JANUARY 2013

1 Hull City **(H)**	2-0
5 Oldham (FAC 3) **(H)**	2-0
12 Stoke City **(A)**	5-3
18 Aston Villa **(H)**	2-2
25 Bournemouth (FAC 4) **(A)**	2-0
28 Everton **(H)**	4-0

FEBRUARY

2 West Brom **(A)**	1-1
8 Arsenal **(H)**	5-1
12 Fulham **(A)**	3-2
16 Arsenal (FAC 5) **(A)**	1-2
23 Swansea City **(H)**	4-3

MARCH

1 Southampton **(A)**	3-0
16 Manchester Utd **(A)**	3-0
22 Cardiff City **(A)**	6-3
26 Sunderland **(H)**	2-1
30 Tottenham H **(H)**	4-0

APRIL

6 West Ham Utd **(A)**	2-1
13 Manchester City **(H)**	3-2
20 Norwich City **(A)**	3-2
26 Chelsea **(H)**	

MAY

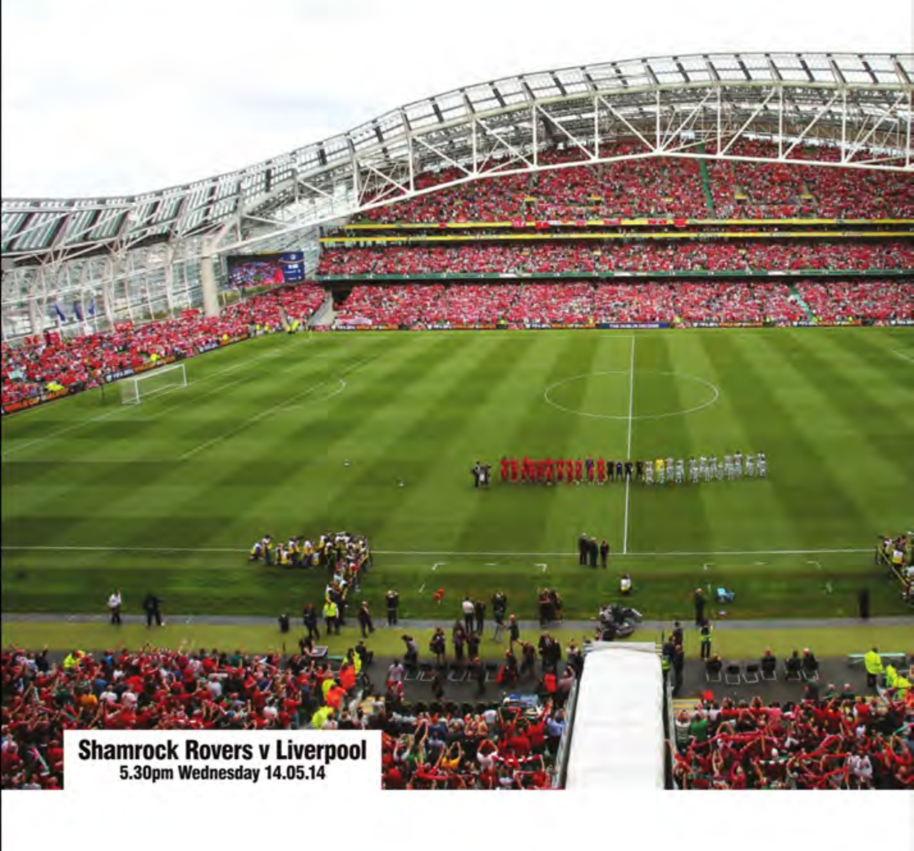
5 Crystal Palace **(A) 8:00pm**
11 Newcastle Utd **(H) 3:00pm**

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Please check **www.liverpoolfc.com** for the latest details as and when they happen.

Away days

With a hop over to Dublin scheduled for 14 May one Irish Red recalls past visits from his heroes



Lansdowne Road





uring my childhood in the 1980s it felt like Liverpool came to play in Dublin every year," recalls Joe Turner, a member of supporters website IrishKop.com.

A quick look back through the history books confirms as much, with the Reds visiting the Irish capital five times in the first half of that particular decade.

Joe first attended one of those friendly games in November 1982, with a Shamrock Rovers team that included future Red Jim Beglin providing the opposition for Bob Paisley's side. "The match took place at Milltown, Rovers' old ground which was controversially sold to property developers a few years later," he continues.

"I remember Ian Rush scoring in the first half and Rovers got a later equaliser. To be there watching Liverpool players in the flesh was fantastic for everyone. I was only eight at the time so you can imagine how excited I was."

Just a few months earlier Turner had been mesmerised while witnessing the team's 3-1 Milk Cup final success against Tottenham Hotspur on TV. "Football didn't have the same wall-to-wall coverage then. In Ireland in particular we only got a few games on terrestrial channels. But that final was live on RTE 2.

"The fact that Ronnie Whelan scored twice, one of them being a later equaliser to take the game to extra-time, really meant a lot to people in Ireland. From then on I was a Liverpool fan. It was probably a little odd for me to support them because my dad followed Manchester United. My older sister was into Liverpool though, so that probably influenced me."

The next time Turner saw his heroes in live action wasn't in Ireland but at Wembley. "My dad – despite being a United fan – took me to the 1986 FA Cup final. He managed to get tickets through a mate and we flew in and out of Luton on the day. Just to be there was fantastic. To win it made the whole trip extra-special."

Fifteen months later he was again in attendance as his heroes returned to Dublin, this time to face an Irish Olympic XI at Lansdowne Road. The trip across the Irish Sea for Kenny Dalglish's squad came four days after they'd opened the season with a 2-1 win away at Arsenal. Due to a collapsed sewer under the Kop they couldn't play at Anfield until 12 September so the friendly was a useful exercise.

"A schoolboy ticket for the game cost me just £2," says Joe. "The idea of an Irish Olympic football team sounds a little bizarre now. I'm not sure any Irish team has ever taken part in the Olympics and they didn't qualify. Being realistic, they didn't have much chance against Liverpool ither and it was no surprise to see them lose 5-0. John Barnes and Peter Beardsley had just arrived and Ray Houghton would come along a few weeks later, so that was the early days of Kenny's really entertaining side."

"The Reds came here to play an Irish Olympic XI"

With a flight-time of less than an hour between Merseyside and



Dublin, some members of the team even travelled over for social events. One of those was in honour of Alan Hansen, with 1987/88 being the central defender's testimonial year. Turner was in attendance as the Scot was honoured by Irish Reds.

"It was held at the Ziegfield Hotel. It was a famous, or perhaps that should be infamous, slightly run-down venue in Dun Laoghaire just a few miles south of Dublin. I think Hansen was presented with a dodgy vase or something similar."

Accompanying him were the club's

The Irish Kop's famous manager's flag on show at Anfield





Irish players, Ronnie Whelan, Steve Staunton, Ray Houghton, Jim Beglin and John Aldridge. "Aldo was yet to score for Ireland at the time – it took him about 20 games to get his first goal – so he was getting a bit of good natured stick from the crowd. To be fair, he took it well. I was only a kid but it was a very funny night. Again, seeing Liverpool players in the flesh was actually hard to comprehend."

The next time Joe got so close to the squad the majority of the faces had changed, with Roy Evans in charge. It was May 1995, just two days after Blackburn Rovers had won the title at Anfield when Dublin again welcomed the team. This time they were on the banks of the Liffey to face League of Ireland side University College Dublin [UCD]. "Probably because of what had gone on 48 hours earlier, when Kenny Dalglish had won the league, there was a real carnival atmosphere around the match."

That environment was enhanced by the sight of a local netting the evening's opening goal. "A lad called Packie Lynch put UCD in front. He lived down the road from me. Apparently he'd been on trial at Liverpool prior to then but hadn't made it. So when he scored he forcibly made his point to the away dugout."

A Robbie Fowler effort in either half, with a Jamie Redknapp strike in between, was enough to turn the initial deficit into a 3-1 victory. "Around that time pre-season tours were becoming more global. It became the norm to go to America or Asia so Liverpool didn't travel to Ireland as often, although they were there again in 1997, 1998 and 2000.

"Gerard Houllier and Rafa Benitez always preferred taking the team to the continent for training, so that was probably another reason why the regular visits to Dublin came to a halt in the Noughties."

That was the case until last August, when a capacity crowd of nearly 52,000 turned up to see the Reds face Celtic at the Aviva Stadium, formerly Lansdowne Road. Despite Amido Balde's goal deciding the contest in favour of the Scottish outfit it was a memorable day.

"Beforehand we'd all thought the crowd would be split 50:50," Turner continues. "As everyone knows, there are loads of Celtic fans throughout Ireland. But there were actually far more Liverpool supporters in attendance. I'd only be guessing, however it wouldn't surprise me if 75 per cent of the crowd had red shirts on. With everyone mixed in together alongside each other and a really warm day it made for a brilliant spectacle.

"I suppose the fact an Irishman in Brendan Rodgers is now in charge of the club gives it extra significance for people here too. Everyone is really excited about the game against Shamrock Rovers on 14 May. There's a buzz about it and I think most of the tickets have sold out. Obviously the dream is for the team to have the recently won Premier League trophy with them."

AVIVA STADIUM IN THREE

1 Lansdowne Road, the original name for the south Dublin venue, was first used for athletics in 1872.

2 Traditionally a rugby union venue, the first football match took place in 1971 when Ireland faced Italy in a friendly.

3 Some of the biggest music acts in the world have played at the venue – U2, Michael Jackson, Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr and the Eagles among them.



Working with children and adults to help inspire positive change through sport – follow us on Twitter **@LFCFoundation** to keep up to date with the community team's projects and activities



Joao with some of the Men's Health programme participants

TEX MESSAGE

Liverpool FC Foundation delivers a range of programmes within the local community and beyond that inspires positive change and helps build better futures for young people and adults.

The Foundation provides a targeted Men's Health programme in local communities across the city. Aiming to improve the health and wellbeing of male residents aged 18 years and over, it was created in response to the high levels of poor health across the city region. The programme targets the key risk factors that contribute to the levels of poor health including: poor diet, obesity, heart disease, low physical-activity level, cancer prevention, alcohol and drug awareness and mental health and wellbeing. Through the delivery of free sessions, it helps to improve access to information, increase public-health engagement and encourage sustainable health improvement.


And taking part in a warm-up session

Reds youngster Joao Carlos Teixeira recently dropped by one of the sessions to lend his support. The 21-year-old joined a group in a circuit-training session followed by a five-a-side match at North Liverpool Academy. "It's important for both men and women to look after their health and wellbeing," said Joao. "This programme encourages the men in the city to take more of a pro-active approach to a lifestyle to benefit their long-term health and happiness."

Mark Haig, head of operations at Liverpool FC Foundation, added: "Our Men's Health programme has been running for more than eight years and during that time we have helped thousands of men across the city region to live healthier lifestyles.

"Liverpool unfortunately has poor levels of health in men. The life expectancy is just 74 years, almost four years lower than the national average. Men also have higher rates for all 15 leading causes of death, including, cancer and diabetes, and only 26% visit their GPs for regular check-ups.

"Our programme was designed to combat the poor levels of health through simple sessions delivered in our local communities which focus on health and wellbeing, physical activity, awareness and change, using the power of the LFC badge."

WISH LIST

Father's Day is coming and there's really no excuse for your dad not supporting the Mighty Reds in style. These are just a few must-haves from the **Official LFC Collection**. The range in its entirety can be viewed and purchased online at **liverpoolfc.com/store** and any Official Club Store.









1 LFC Men's Onesie **£30** (A3269)
2 LFC Men's Dressing Gown **£30** (A3286)
3 LFC Matchday Tie Box Set **£20** (A1935)
4 LFC Leather Wallet **£20** (A3349)

All featured products are available in official club stores and online at **www.liverpoolfc.com/store**

WIN THE OFFICIAL WORLD CUP BRAZIL BOOK

The world's greatest tournament, starring plenty of Liverpool favourites, is drawing ever nearer – and we've got **five copies of the 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil™ Official Book**, published by Carlton, to give away to the first five lucky readers whose correct answer to the question below is pulled out of the hat.

Written by Jon Mattos and priced at £12.99, the **2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil™ Official Book** is packed with stunning photography and expert analysis of each team, its star players and prospects in the finals. It also features a guide to each of the stadiums and host cities, a history of the World Cup and a tournament progress chart to be filled in as the competition progresses. Whether you're watching the games live in Brazil or in your own home, this is the tournament preview for you.



FOR A CHANCE TO WIN, SIMPLY ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

Which country pulled off a shock 1-0 win over England at the 1950 finals in Brazil?

The closing date for entries is Friday 6 June 2014. Email your answer - including your name and address - to LFCmag@programmemaster.com. Please put WORLD CUP BOOK COMPO in the subject bar. We'll announce the winners in a forthcoming issue.

Mamadou Sakho on Instagram



13 April
Huge victory today!!! Love you fans #YNWA #LIVERPOOL



4 April
Patch for the 96



4 April
L'ÉQUIPE MAG demain



11 February
Avec David Ginola!



8 February
@liverpoolfc Can't wait to be back with you! #ynwa #liverpoolfc #liverpool



22 January
School visit for the LFC Foundation



23 November
With my brother Yann!



22 November
#ynwa



19 November
#bresil



30 October
Hi everyone! I love to share with you. So, thank you for all your great comments!!!



26 October
Hey fans! I'm just leaving my house, are you ready to support us this afternoon?



29 September
My first win with the Reds!!



David PRICE

Liverpool's best performer this season is the magnificent manager behind it all

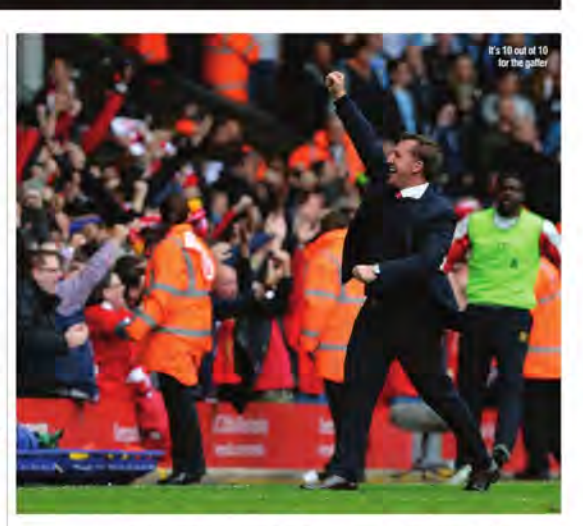
However the season ends up panning out, it has been a great nine months for Liverpool FC and its supporters. The way the fans have been getting behind the team has been great to see and I'm sure that backing inspires the players onto greater heights. Regardless of what we might have to go for in the final games of the season, everyone is massively proud of this team.

I remember saying in this column at Christmas-time that I hoped we would be able to secure a top-four finish. Back in August I would have bitten anyone's hand off if they'd said Champions League football would be back at Anfield next season – it's massively important. Anything on top of that would be a massive bonus.

Brendan Rodgers has been brilliant and I would have to give him 10 out of 10 for what he's achieved at Liverpool so far. It was always going to take him time to adapt to the club but you could gradually see the players starting to believe in his way of thinking and playing. You could see it coming together little by little.

As a fan, you just hoped that it was going to be the way forward for Liverpool, but you can see that the players believe in him 100 per cent. They want to go out there and produce for him. It's a young team and in some ways he seems to be a father figure to many of them, knowing when to put an arm around them but also when to tell them to raise their games. He's got great man-management skills and tactically he's been very shrewd and demonstrated that he's a good judge of situations.

> "To go from seventh place to challenging for the title has made us all so proud"



It's 10 out of 10 for the gaffer

The win against Manchester City was one of the best of the season because it showed another side to the team. This year we've often been spoiled by going in two or three-up at half-time and having the luxury of that sort of cushion. But often the sign of a champion team is scraping those one-nils with five minutes to go. With the exception of Fulham away and a nervy few minutes at home to Sunderland, we haven't had too many of those situations.

Whatever happens between now and the final kick against Newcastle, the team won't face a more nerve-wracking scenario than the one against City. It was a high-pressure moment where they had lost a lead and the momentum was with their opponent but they showed their resolve and a great fighting spirit to get the victory.

If I'm being honest there have been times in the last few years where I had started to doubt whether I'd ever see Liverpool win another league title in my lifetime but this team has given us that sense of optimism again. To go from seventh to a title challenge is pretty much unprecedented and it has made us all proud.

I was pleased to get a good win under my belt against Ondrej Pala in Denmark the other week. He is a good opponent so to secure a third round knockout was a positive step and now I am looking forward to my next fight on 7 June. I missed the City game because I was on the plane home from Denmark at the time. We were two up when I landed but by the time I'd collected my bags it was 2-2! Thankfully, it worked out well and I believe these are exciting times for both the club and myself.

Follow David on Twitter @DavidPrice_1